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Archeology at the Charles Towne Site (38CH1) on Albemarle Point in South Carolina, Part II, The Photographic Study

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Archeology at the Charles Towne Site (38CH1) on Albemarle Point in South Carolina, Part II, The Photographic Study

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Comments

This volume of over seventy photographs constitutes a photographic study paralleling the report on the archeology done at the Charles Towne Site in Charleston County, South Carolina, "Archeology at the Charles Towne Site (38CH1) on Albemarle Point in South Carolina, Part I, The Text". Rather than being tied to the text of Part I in the usual cross-referenced manner, this volume can stand alone as a visual record of the archeology done as reported in Part I, although its format parallels that of Part I and thus has been designed to accompany the written report of the archeology and the results based on it as presented in Part I.

ARCHEOLOGY AT THE CHARLES TOWNE SITE (38CH1)

ON

ALBEMARLE POINT IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Part II

The Photographic Study

By

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Columbia, South Carolina
May 1971

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INTRODUCTION

This volume of over seventy photographs constitutes Part II, The Photographic Study, of the report on the archeology at the Charles Towne Site on Albermarle Point in Charleston County, South Carolina (38CH1). Rather than being tied to the text in the usual cross-referenced manner, this volume can stand alone as a visual record of the archeology done at the Charles Towne Site in 1968 and 1969 through the auspices of the South Carolina Tricentennial Commission. However, it is designed to accompany the written report of the archeology and the results based on it, constituting Part I, The Text.

The format of this volume is parallel to that for Part I in that the exploratory archeology is followed by a visual report on the work done at the land face and main fortifications of 1670, which is followed by the features of the eighteenth century, and finally, the early Indian occupation and the Indian Ceremonial Center is reported in pictures.

It was the understanding of the archeologists throughout the project that the report on the Charles Towne excavations would be published by the Tricentennial Commission, however, they later chose not to do so. As can be seen from the text in Part I, and the photographic record in Part II of this report, the work done at the Charles Towne Site was most productive, and this report should be published, rather than available only as file copies at the office of the Tricentennial Commission and the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology. It is hoped that grant funds can be obtained for the publication of this impressive record, in which case Part I and Part II will be woven together to make a single cross-referenced unit.

THE EXPLORATORY ARCHEOLOGY

Figure 1

An aerial view of the tip of Albemarle Point touching Old Towne Creek. Part of the 1670 Fortification Ditch can be seen in the center, as well as the excavated British redoubt of 1780. The vessels for the Charles Towne Settlement that could be brought into the creek were tied along the curve of the creek.

The parallel lines in the Ashley River Marsh to the right, and the creek marsh to the left are those of a marsh buggy used by the scientists studying the insect control problem on the site.

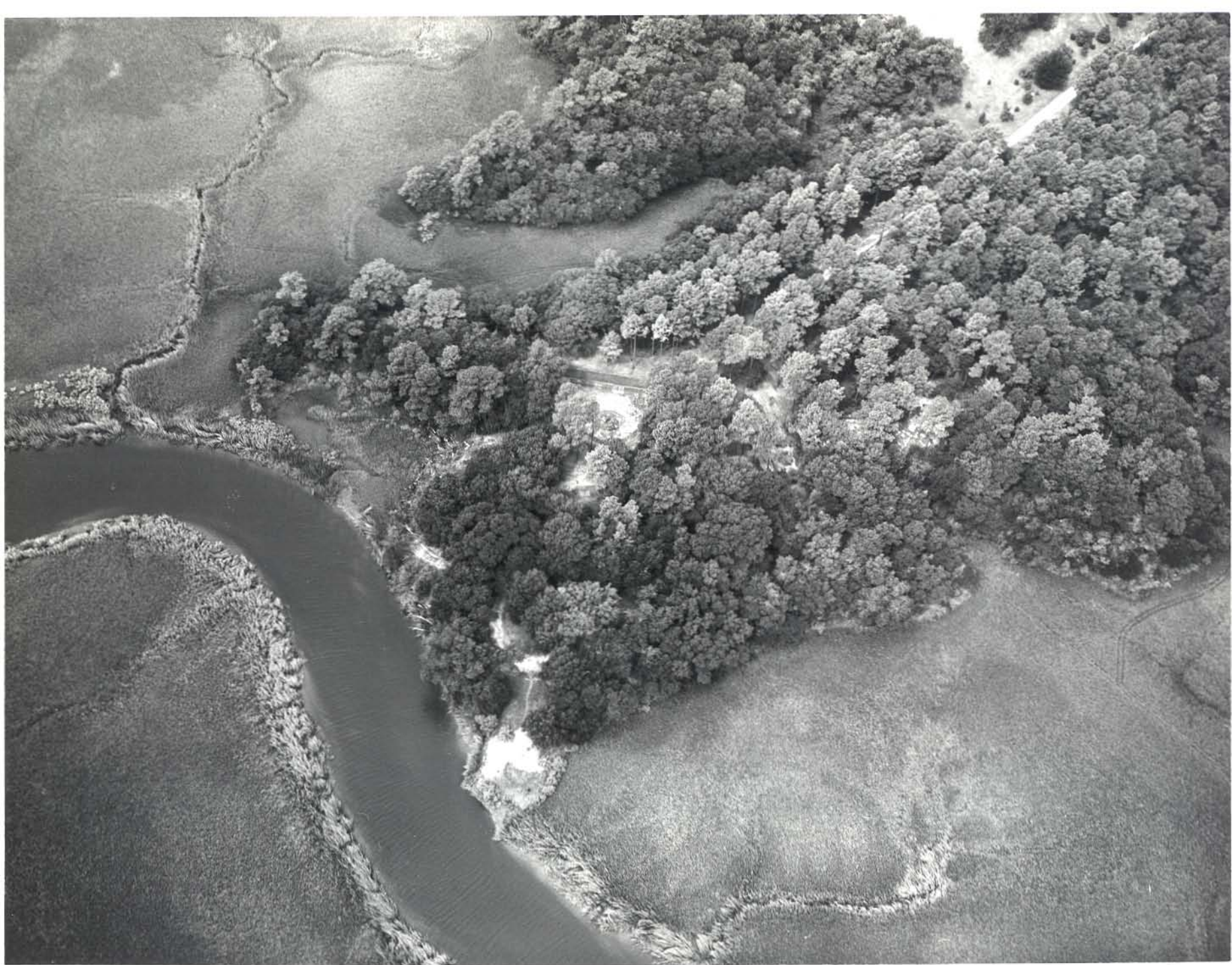


FIGURE 2

A view of the area of 38 CH1-1 in the narrow neck connecting the tip of Albemarle Point to the higher ground to the north. The dark parallel lines are the vineyard ditches from which seventeenth century artifacts were recovered. A profile of one of these ditches can be seen at the left center. In the background is a section of the land face fortification ditch of 1670. The darker soil between the vineyard ditches is a humus layer remaining from a seventeenth century occupation layer, from which artifacts of that period were recovered.



FIGURE 3

A view of trench 38CH1-5 near the Horry-Lucas Plantation House Ruin, showing a ditch dug at the time of the use of that plantation crossing several parallel vineyard ditches of a much earlier period. Exploratory trenches such as this were the means whereby the features throughout the Charles Towne Site were located.

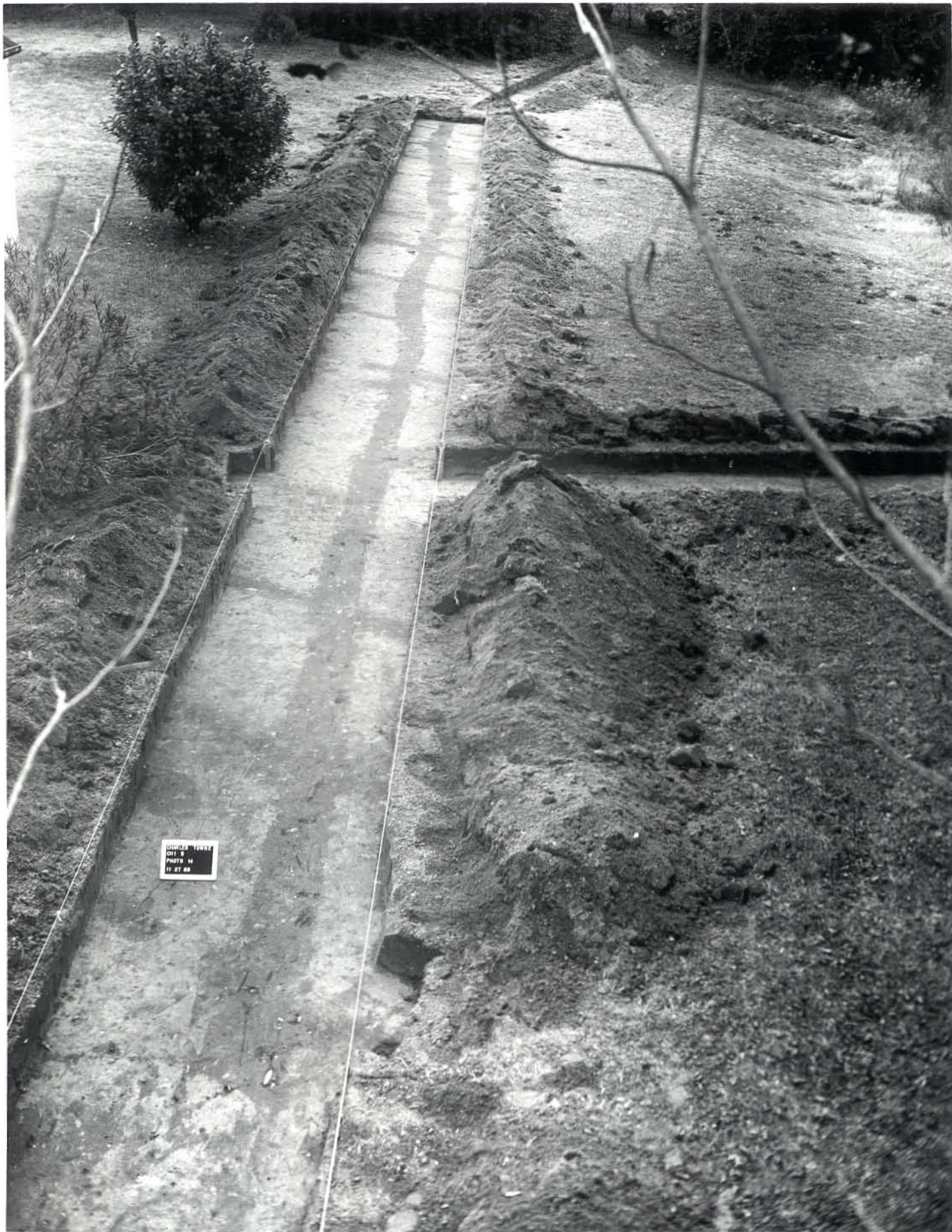


FIGURE 4

Exploratory archeology in progress in the high land field area of the 1670 Fortified Site. This area (38CH1-8) was opened to reveal the junction of two ditches that crossed here. The ditch to the right is the land face fortification ditch dug in 1670 and shown on the Culpeper Map of 1671. The ditch on the left cuts across it, clearly intruding on the earlier ditch, and is parallel with the Horry-Lucas Plantation House Ruin, and was dug during the use of that house in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. The crew members in the background are standing over the center of the ditches as revealed in the exploratory slots.



THE LAND FACE FORTIFICATION OF 1670

FIGURE 5

With the completion of the exploratory phase of the project at Charles Towne, and the discovery of the Indian Ceremonial Center, a much larger crew was necessary than had been previously estimated. Pictured here are half of the crew during the period when excavation was being conducted both at the Charles Towne Fortification Site and the Indian Ceremonial Center. The crew was composed of high school and college students from several schools, as well as non-students. Since the work was demanding physically there was a considerable turn-over of personnel due to the loss of those who just could not do the work satisfactorily. In order to find fifty who could produce work over 100 were hired, some lasting only a few hours after they discovered that archeology is not all romance.



FIGURE 6

A view of the junction of the north fortification ditch on the left, with the west fortification ditch on the right. The north ditch has been excavated and the soil adjacent to it has been replaced and the accompanying embankment or "embrasure" has been replaced in its original position. In the right foreground the outline of the west fortification ditch can be seen before excavation. Much shovel work is required before the ground is clean enough to allow these features to be seen and measured and photographed. In the background between these two ditches is the high point of the land inside the 1670 Fortification. No excavation could be carried out in this area inside the fortification, at the request of the Tricentennial Commission, in order to avoid disturbing the grass which they wished to protect. We know nothing, therefore, about this strategic high point of land inside the 1670 Fortified Area of Charles Towne.



FIGURE 7

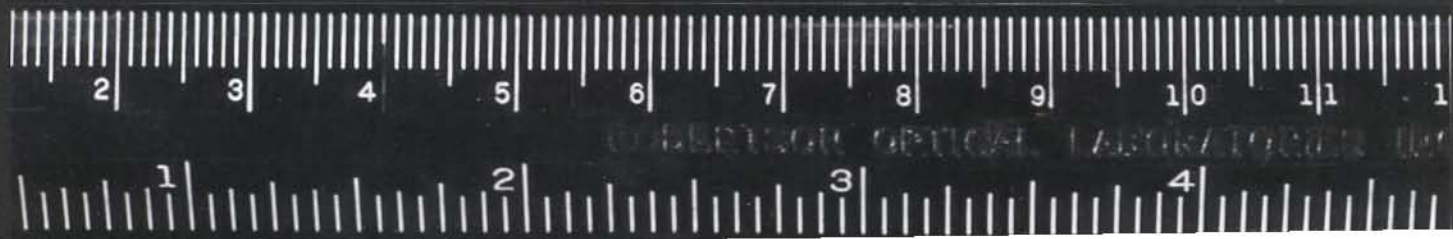
This wine bottle base (38CH1-39A-2) is typical of the type of artifact found during the Charles Towne excavations. This example was found in the top area of the north fortification ditch in Square 39, and is of the type made during the second decade of the eighteenth century. This is an English wine bottle made of olive-green glass.



FIGURE 8

The photograph below is of an iron cylinder (38CH1-18A-25) found in Square 18 inside the north fortification ditch. It is thought to be a bandolier cartridge which held a charge of powder for the seventeenth century muskets.

To the right is an illustration of a musketeer with his match-lock, "Bandileers and Rest." The small tubular objects hanging from his bandolier belt are the cartridges. A difficulty of these was that if one happened to ignite, all the cartridges would explode one after the other in a chain reaction, to the discomfort of the wearer. In his left hand, the musketeer holds the butt of his musket and the burning ends of his long rope-like match with which he ignited his gun. This was the type of gun replaced by the flintlock muskets. Both types were used at the Charles Towne Settlement in the 1670's. The illustration is from Small Arms and Ammunition in the United States Service by Berkeley R. Lewis, Smithsonian Institution, August 14, 1956: Plate 2.





Pub^d. April 1786 by S. Hooper.

Goodnight sculp^t.

A Musketeer with his Match-Lock, Bandoleers and Rest.

FIGURE 9

The junction of the north and west fortification ditches after being sodded and irrigated in order to stabilize the ditch and embankment. In the background is the yet-to-be-excavated area of the original settlement of Charles Towne. On the grass in the background is a plastic tent used by the entomologists from Clemson University who were carrying out experiments on the site at the time the archeology was being done.

Archeology on the town site in the future should likely prove of considerable interest to those interested in the data yet to be recovered from beneath the grass on Albemarle Point that will add more to our understanding of the first English settlement in South Carolina.



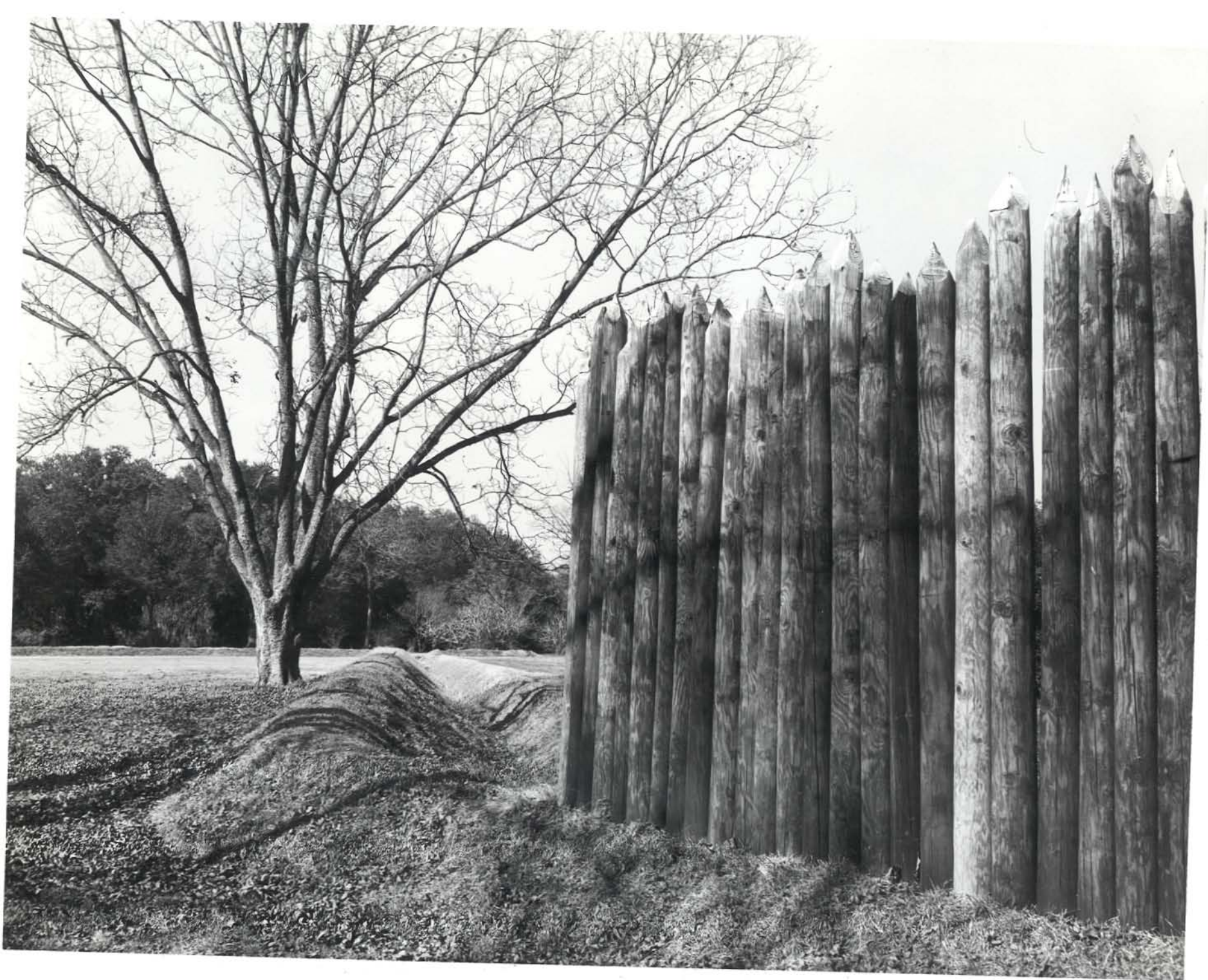
FIGURE 10

An aerial view of Albemarle Point facing north, with the land face fortification ditch in the left center after its completion as an explanatory exhibit. At the upper right is the Ashley River Marsh, at the left center is the Waring House, and at the upper left, the site of the Ceremonial Center.



FIGURE 11

A view of the angle of the north fortification ditch which was designed to allow a cross-fire against anyone attacking the town from the north. The palisades have been replaced along a portion of the embankment in the original position of a trench found to have held them in 1670. Replacing the palisade along the entire length of the fortification would considerably enhance the interpretation of the fortification around the 1670 Settlement Site.



THE MAIN FORTIFICATION OF 1670

FIGURE 12

The dark soil-filled ditch of the main fortification at the tip of Albemarle Point with crew members standing along the edges of the ditch outline. This view is facing the Ashley River which is in the background. At the urging of the landscapers and at the request of the director of the Tricentennial Commission, archeology in the area of this ditch was narrowly limited to the immediate area of the ditch itself, so as to prevent the cutting of trees. As a result nothing is known of any features representing structures that may have been associated with the ditch and its accompanying parapet embankment.



FIGURE 13

The area of the east end of the main fortification ditch during excavation. The crewmen are troweling and sifting the contents of the ditch in ten foot units to recover the artifacts that were thrown or washed in during the filling of the ditch.



FIGURE 14

Profile of Square 172 in the main fortification ditch showing the various layers of humus-filled and light sandy lenses formed during the filling of the ditch. The arrow on the profile points to a tobacco pipe stem extending from the wall.



FIGURE 15

The profile of Square 170 illustrating the variation seen in the fill pattern within the main fortification ditch as compared with Figure 14. This variation often made it difficult to establish uniform provenience that would be meaningful along the entire length of the ditch. However, from an analysis of the artifacts from this ditch, it became apparent that the ditch stopped receiving artifacts after the 1680's.



A black and white photograph of an archaeological excavation site. The image shows a large, dark, rectangular feature, possibly a pit or foundation, with a white label in the center. The label contains the following text: CHARLES TOWNE, CH1 SQ 170, PHOTO 90, 7 8 69. The background shows a dirt area with some debris and a small wooden structure.

CHARLES TOWNE
CH1 SQ 170
PHOTO 90
7 8 69

FIGURE 16

During the excavation of the main fortification ditch, usually in the uppermost "A" level, seventeenth century artifacts were found in the fill dirt. By using a trowel, paint brushes, and other delicate tools, even small items could be recovered in situ and photographed to reveal their relationship within the matrix in which they were found.

In this photograph of such a cleaned area with objects lying in the ditch just as they were uncovered in Square 168, we see:

- A. a lead casting sprue for swan shot
- B. a pipe bowl fragment
- C. a musket ball
- D. a small buckshot
- E. a fragment of burned bone
- F. a brass straight pin

Also seen are several tobacco pipe stems, oyster shells, bone fragments, and in the upper right corner, a flattened musket ball with a hole through it, perhaps once used as a fish line sinker.

CHARLES TOWNE
CH1 SQ 168
PHOTO 89
6 11 69

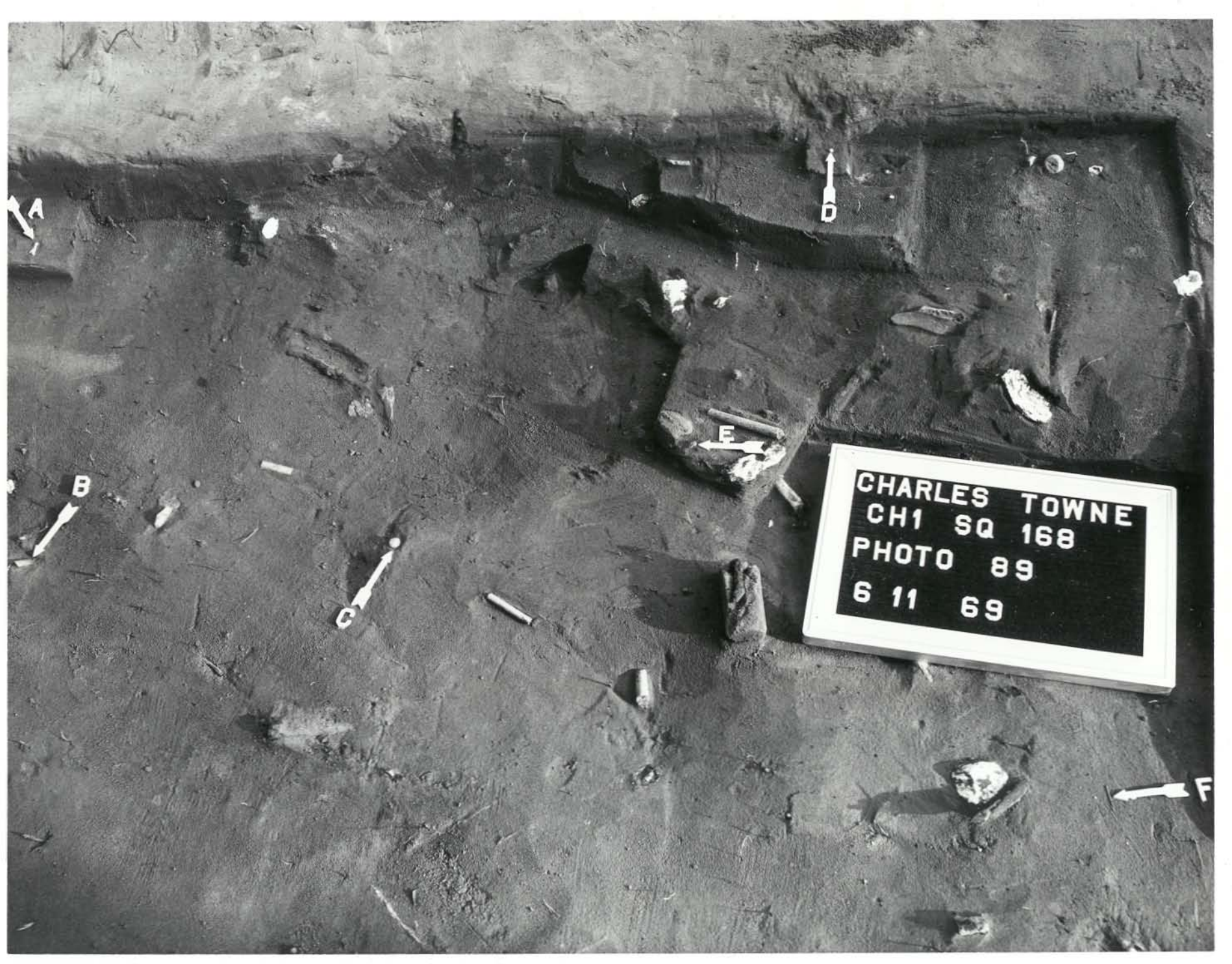


FIGURE 17

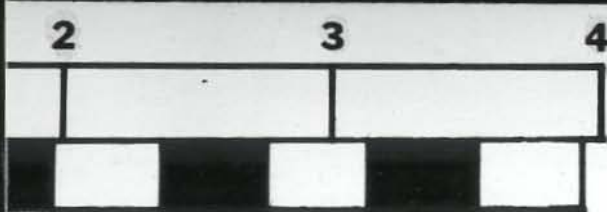
This photograph illustrates some of the smaller objects recovered from the main fort ditch. In the upper left is a lead musket ball, and beneath it a bale seal with the letters "WM". To the right is a string of blue and white beads of the type used to trade with the Indians, and at the bottom left, a ground pottery disc of polychrome painted delft. This disc is from a drug jar of the type generally attributed to the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. Fragments of the type were also recovered from the Fort Raleigh site in North Carolina in a context of the late sixteenth century. Such delft jars are derived from the Italian Albarelli of the fifteenth century which were being made by Antwerp potters of Italian origin in Belgium and in England (Noël Hume, personal communication). It is interesting that we find this type delft in a context as late as the 1670's.

Beads: 38CH1-168A-28

Seal: 38CH1-168A-30

Musket Ball: 38CH1-30A-19

Delft Disc: 38CH1-169D-27



IN.
CM.

5

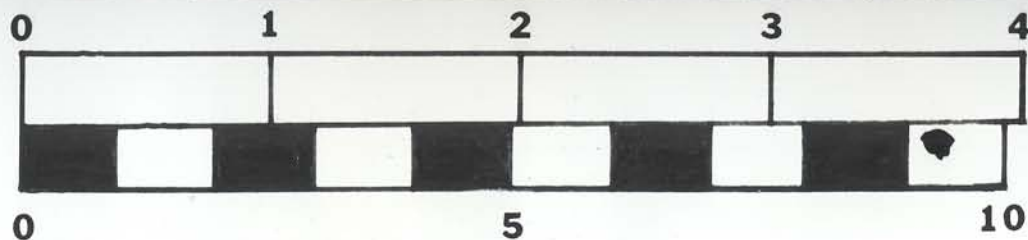
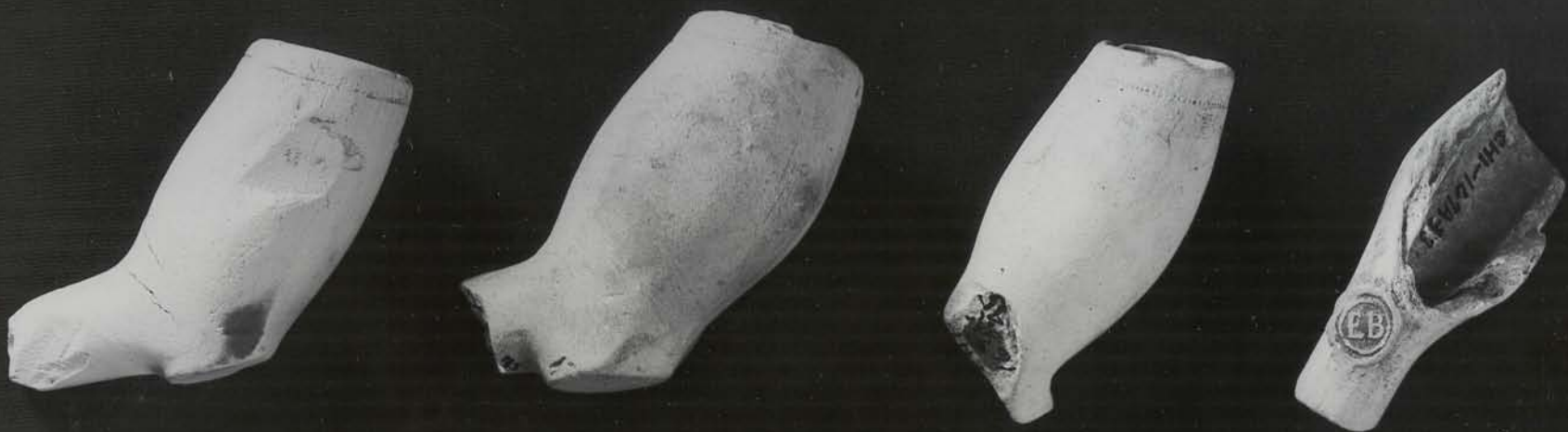
10

FIGURE 18

Seventeenth century type tobacco pipes from Charles Towne. Those marked with "EB" are likely made by Edward Battle, who received his freedom as a pipemaker in 1660. A pipe marked "ID" was also found in the main fort ditch, and may be the pipe mark of John Dove of London who was making pipes around 1664.

By measuring the bore diameter of the pipe stem hole and using a formula based on the fact that the bore diameter decreased through time, the mean date for the accumulation of a pipe stem sample can be determined. The 206 pipe stems from the main fort ditch provide a date of 1667, which is very close to the 1670 date known from documents for the first European settlement on the site.

Left to Right: 38CH1-172D-30, 38CH1-172A-43 (top)
38CH1-168A-45, 38CH1-167A-33 (bottom)



IN.
CM.

FIGURE 19

Seven gunflints were found in the main fort ditch. These do not have the usual characteristics of European made gunflints, but are locally made on the Charles Towne Site. Chips of the material likely used in flaking these gunflints from larger flint nodules were found in the ditch with the flints. Although 1000 flints were listed among the goods brought to Charles Towne by the first settlers, these flints are not like the Nordic or the Dutch type gunflints known to have been in use during this period.

Left to Right: 38CH1-169A-36, 38CH1-169D-20, 38CH1-168C-24/2 (top)
38CH1-168E-26, 38CH1-168A-25, 38CH1-168C-24/1 (bottom)

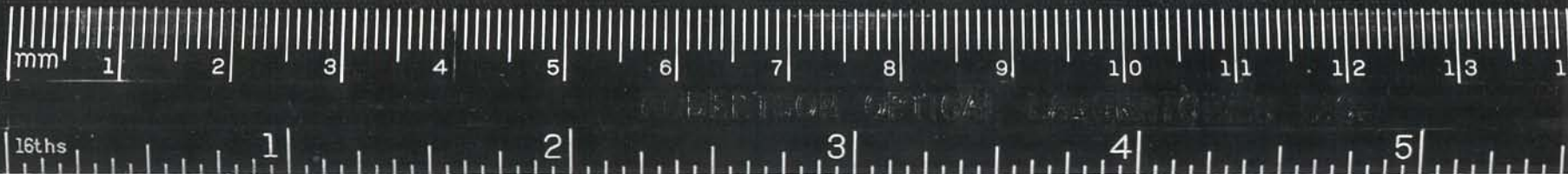
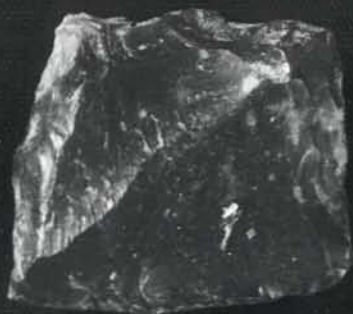


FIGURE 20

These chips of flint are fire flints used to strike against steel for making fires. Fourteen of these were found in the main fort ditch. The large flint nodule at the top is battered on all exposed edges, and was used as a hammer-stone, or possibly a strike-a-light steel on one or two of its edges. The others are more typical of fire flints, however, showing the curved striking edge typical of fire flints. So many fire flints in the ditch fill may reflect the need for numerous fires nearby, perhaps by those standing watch at the fort.

Left to Right: top 38CH1-180A-23

Top Row: 38CH1-168A-48, 38CH1-167A-24, 38CH1-108A-25

Middle: 38CH1-168A-48, 38CH1-167A-35, 38CH1-172C-23

Bottom: 38CH1-169A-37, 38CH1-168A-25/14, 38CH1-170D-23

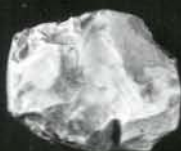
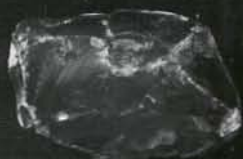
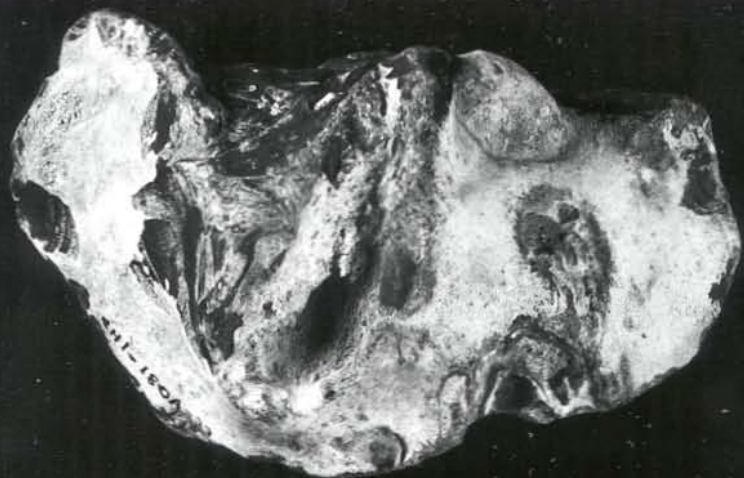
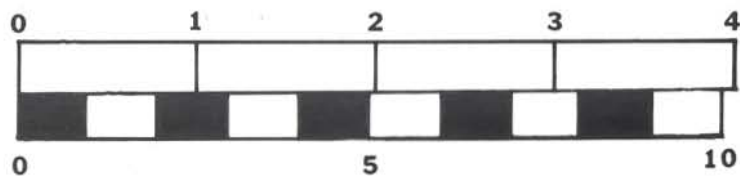
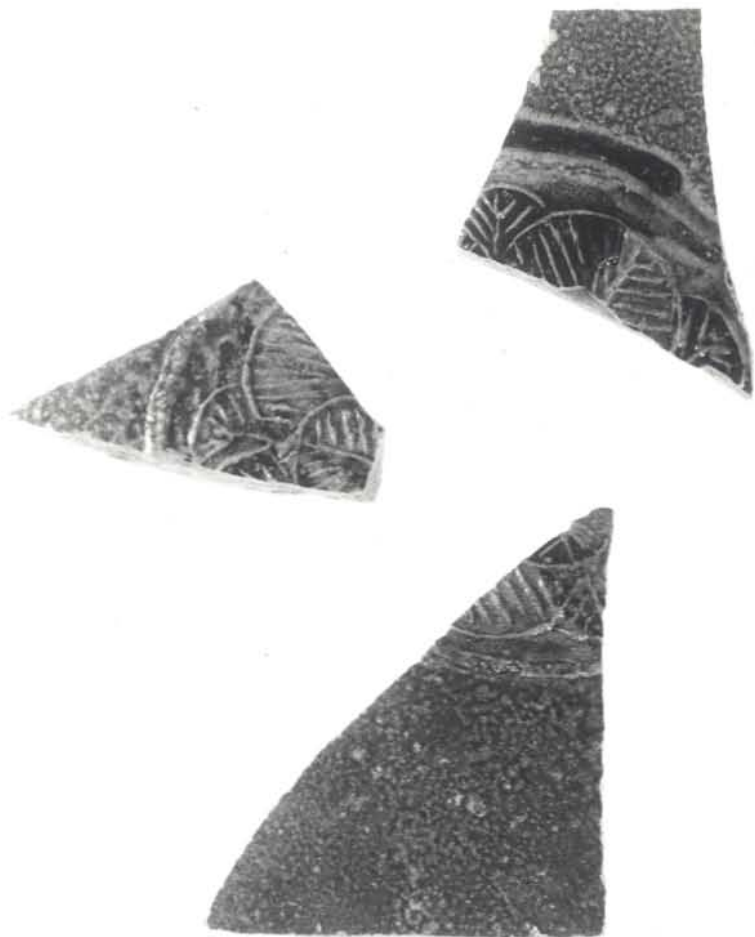


FIGURE 21

Fragments of Bellarmine stoneware jugs were recovered from the fort ditch. The three on the left have some cobalt blue glaze added to the medallion, and date from the early seventeenth century. The neck fragment on the right dates from the 1650 to 1670 period.

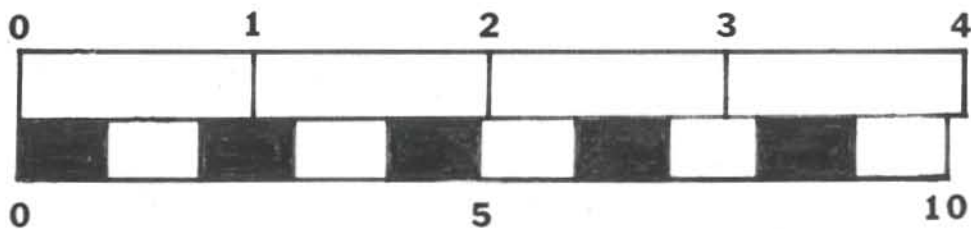
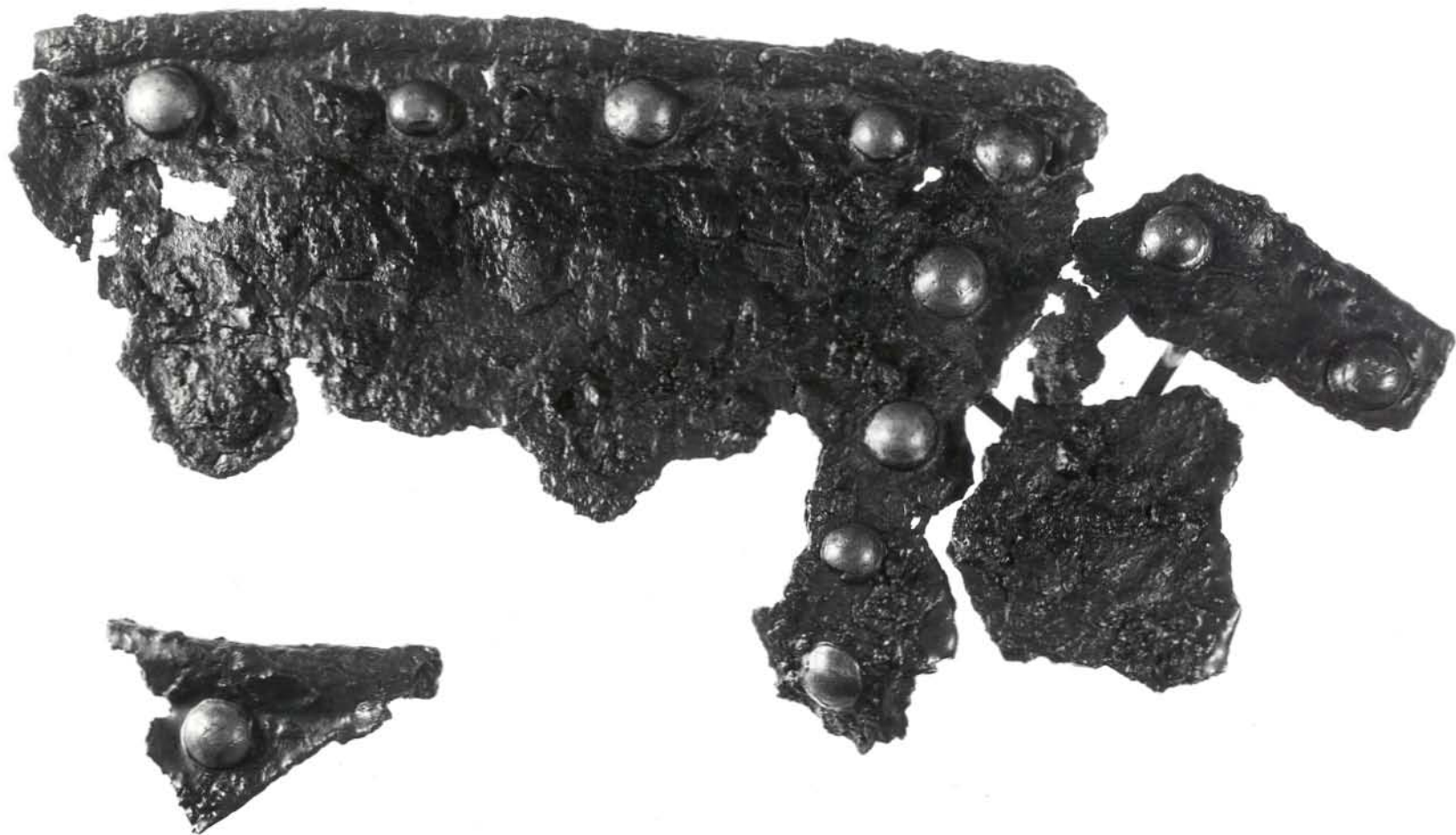
Left Center:	38CH1-174A-31
Top:	38CH1-171A-78
Bottom:	38CH1-173A-30
Right:	38CH1-177E-1



IN.
CM.

FIGURE 22

Among those items brought to the Charles Towne Site by the first settlers were twelve suits of armour. John Miller excavated the ruin of the house thought to be that of James Le Sade who purchased Old Towne Plantation (and probably built the house) between 1694 and 1697. It is located just north of the fortified area of the site, on the Ashley River side of Albemarle Point. During this excavation, Miller discovered a fragment of armour with brass rivets (38CH1-F-36) used to hold the leather lining. From the fragment the piece has been identified by Harold Peterson as having come from a suit of English armour.



IN.
CM.

THE BRITISH REDOUBT OF 1780

FIGURE 23

The dark fan-shaped outline of the artillery redoubt found in front of the 1670 Main Fort Ditch. From maps and references, plus the artifacts that came from the ditch shown here, we know that this feature was constructed by the British during the siege of Charleston in 1780. The dark, parallel ditches are vineyard ditches from an earlier period that were cut into by the redoubt ditch when it was dug. This artillery redoubt allowed an artillery piece to be placed over a bunker beneath the gun and used to defend the south side of the Ashley River against a possible landing by way of Old Town Creek of American forces in Charleston. This was a defensive redoubt, one of several built along the bank of the Ashley River as the British approached Charleston in preparation for the siege and capture of that city in 1780.



FIGURE 24

Profile of the redoubt ditch showing the oyster shell, lead casting sprues, delft, and other objects of the third quarter of the eighteenth century found lying on the bottom of the ditch, having been discarded by those standing watch at the redoubt.

CHARLES TOWNE
CH 1 SQ 205
PHOTO 84
7 3 69



FIGURE 25

The crew standing in the excavated redoubt ditch. Note the trench wall inside the main ditch which was used to hold vertical poles to form the chamber beneath the artillery piece that sat on top of the central chamber. The man in the center is standing in the central posthole which was needed to support the heavy timbers over the bunker on which the artillery piece sat. To the left can be seen the main fortification ditch of the 1670 Fort built by the first European settlers to Albemarle Point.

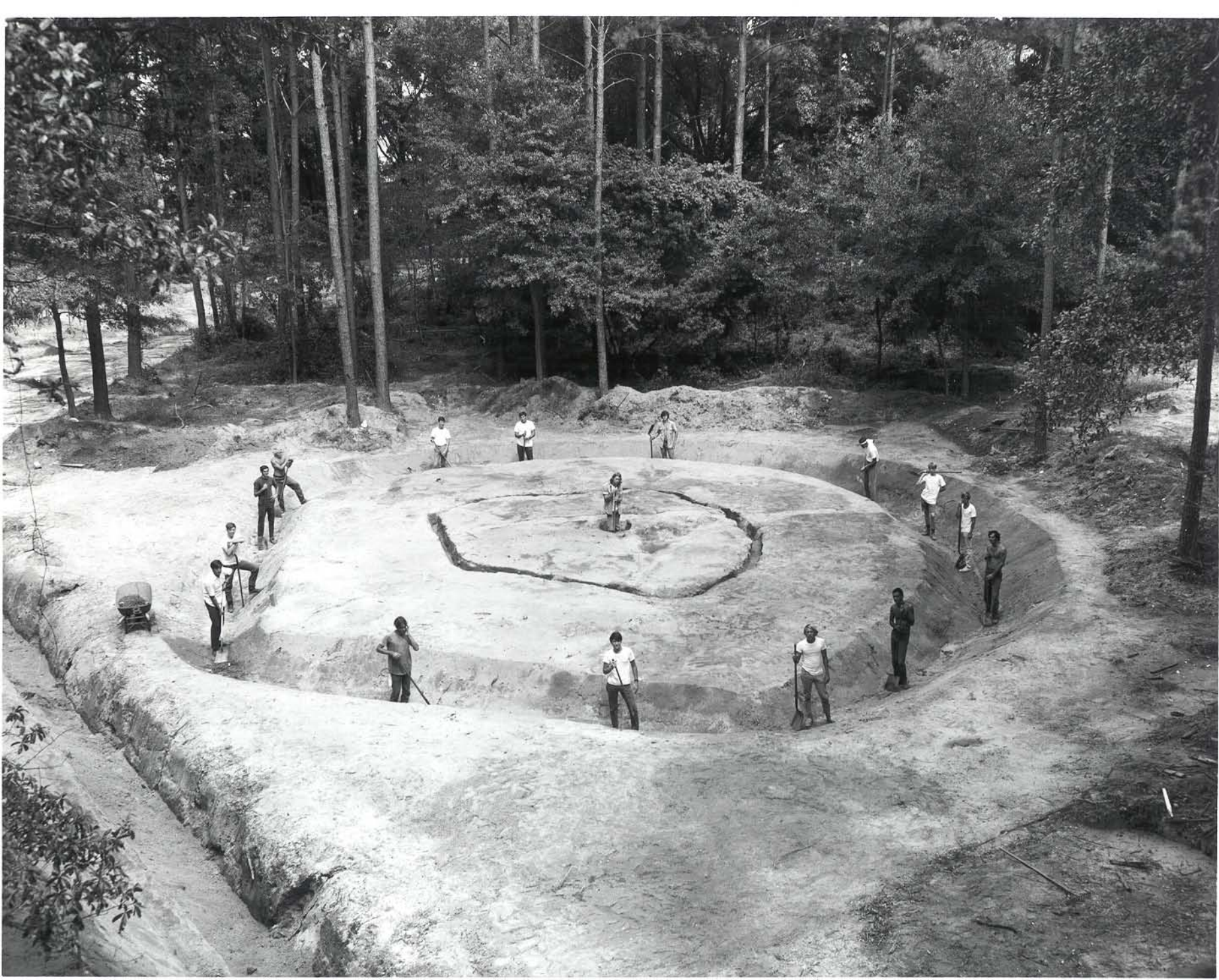


FIGURE 26

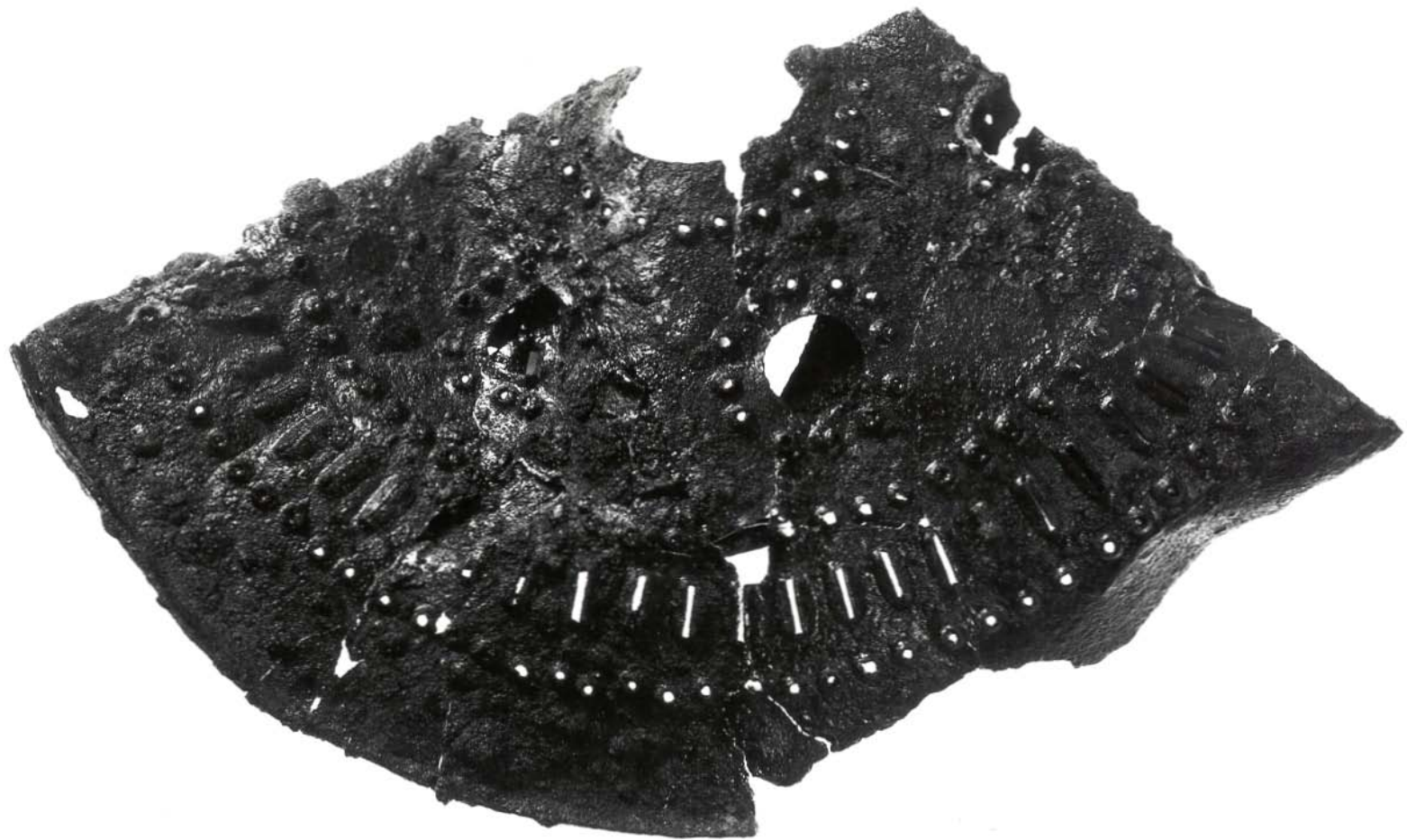
A lantern cone (38CH1-207C-38) found in the bottom of the redoubt ditch. The consistency of this sheet iron rust was like that of pie crust, and great care was necessary to remove and preserve it. One shovel blow by a careless crewman could have totally destroyed it.



207C

FIGURE 27

The lantern cone (38CH1-207C-38) after preservation. This work of boiling to remove salts, dehydration, and coating with a polyurethane resin coating had to be done the same night of the day it was discovered to prevent it from totally disintegrating.

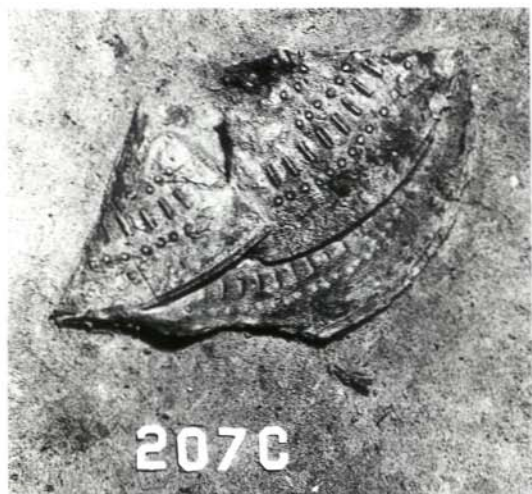


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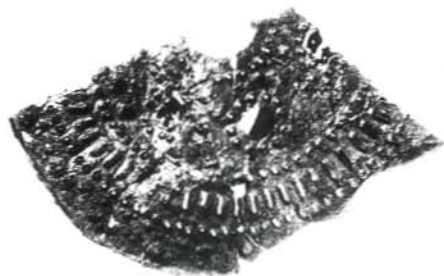
FIGURE 28

- A. The cone in situ in the ground
- B. The treated cone after preservation
- C. A drawing of a lantern represented by the fragile cone found in the redoubt ditch (From Know Your Heirlooms, L. H. Ormsbee, New York: 1957, Illustration 115).
- D. Painting by Salvator Rosa (who died in 1673) showing a lantern with a pierced cone similar to the one from the redoubt (From the painting "Diogenes in Search of an Honest Man", Pictorial History of Philosophy, D. D. Runes, New York: 1959, p. 99).
- E. A painting by A. J. DuBois Drahonet entitled "Night Rounds" illustrating a British soldier carrying a pierced iron lantern (From Military Drawings and Paintings in the Royal Collection, A. E. H. Miller and N. P. Dawnay, London: 1966, V. 1, Plate 379).

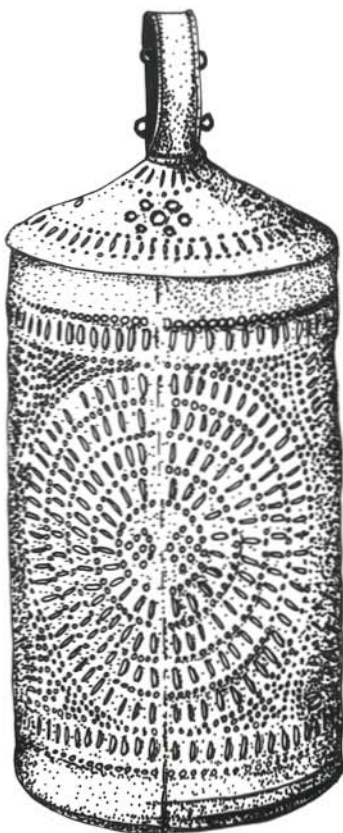
This illustrates the process necessary to be carried out for almost every artifact recovered by the historical archeologist to obtain the best interpretation of the archeological data. From these two illustrations of lanterns, compared with the Charles Towne redoubt example, we can see that such lanterns had a time span from the seventeenth century into the nineteenth, at least. In fact, antique dealers are still having these made and burying them for some months until a proper "antique" appearance is achieved through rusting. However, these are easy to detect from the authentic ones due to the craftsmanship involved.



A



B



C



D



E

FIGURE 29

Iron hardware from the redoubt ditch, probably representing some of that used on the redoubt.

Top: strap himge (38CH1-207C-44)

Right: "HL" hinge (38CH1-208C-29)

Left: pintle for large door, with arm brace (38CH1-207C-26)

Bottom: strap-type hinge with a strap for each side of the door (38CH1-206C-39)

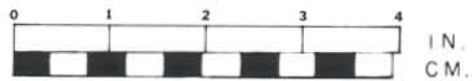
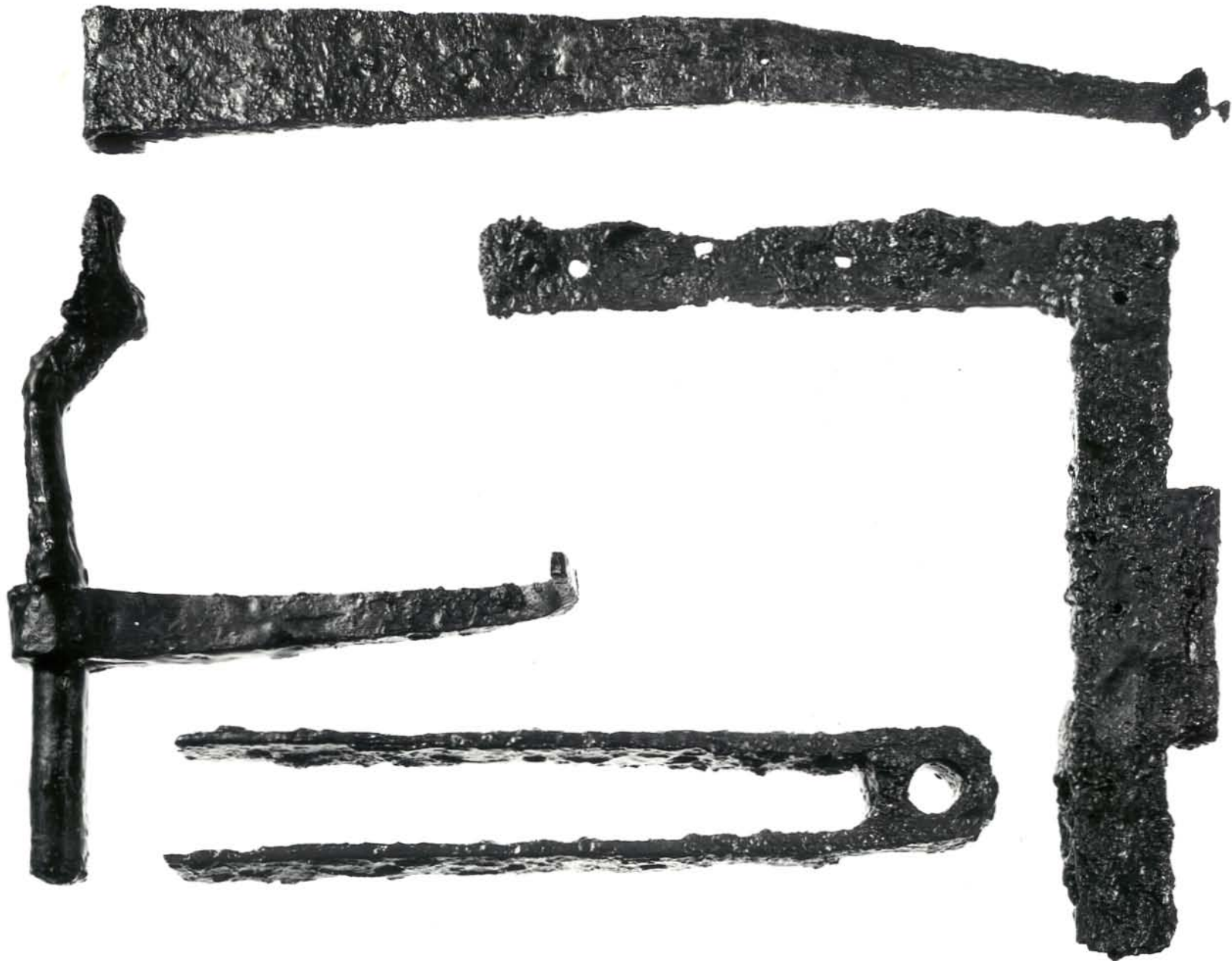
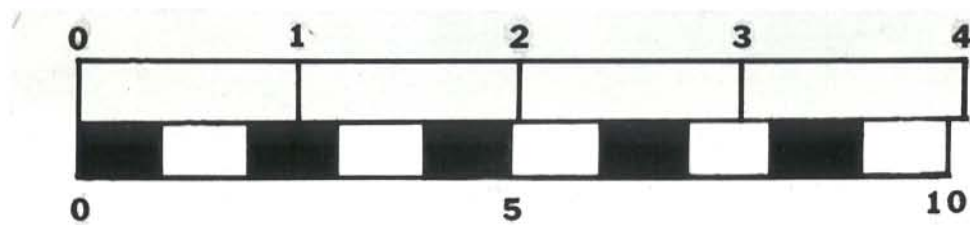
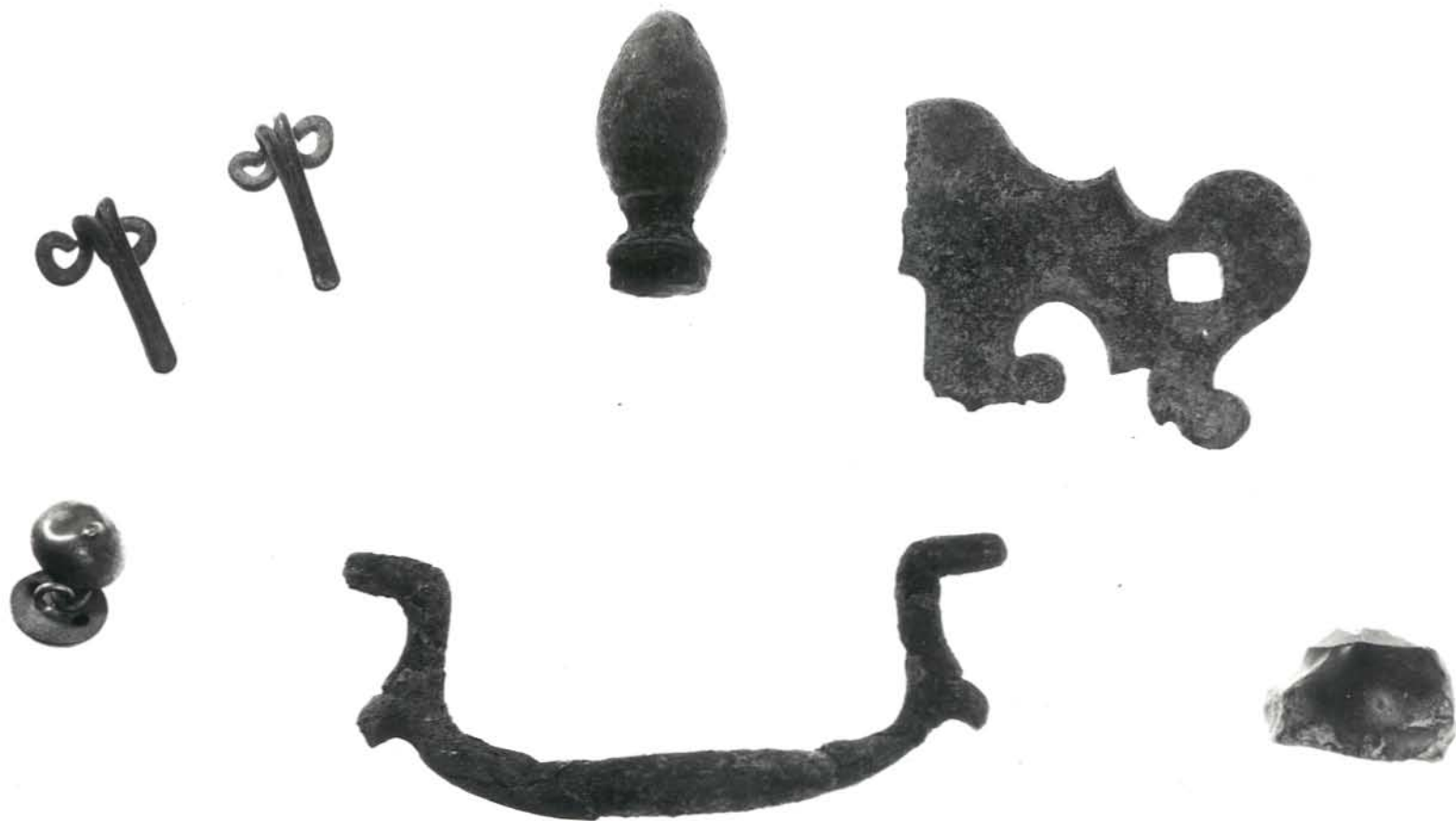


FIGURE 30

Small objects from Charles Towne excavations. At the upper left are two clothing hooks of copper wire found in the main fort ditch (38CH1-168A-29,38). The silver sleeve links below the hooks were also found in the main fort ditch (38CH1-171A-22).

The brass finial at the top center (38CH1-206C-33), the Chippendale drawer pull (38CH1-204D-25), and the brass escutcheon plate fragment (38CH1-206C-41) were found in the 1780 British redoubt.

The gunflint (38CH1-18A-20) was found in the north fortification ditch for the settlement of 1670. This type gunflint is Dutch, as were virtually all gunflints of the late seventeenth and through the first three quarters of the eighteenth century.



IN.
CM.

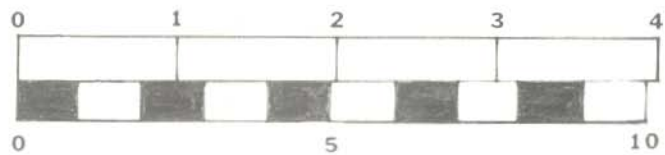
FIGURE 31

Cabinet locks from the redoubt ditch. These are typical of the eighteenth century locks found on many historic sites of that period.

Top: 38CH1-207C-26

Left: 38CH1-205C-26

Bottom: 38CH1-208C-25



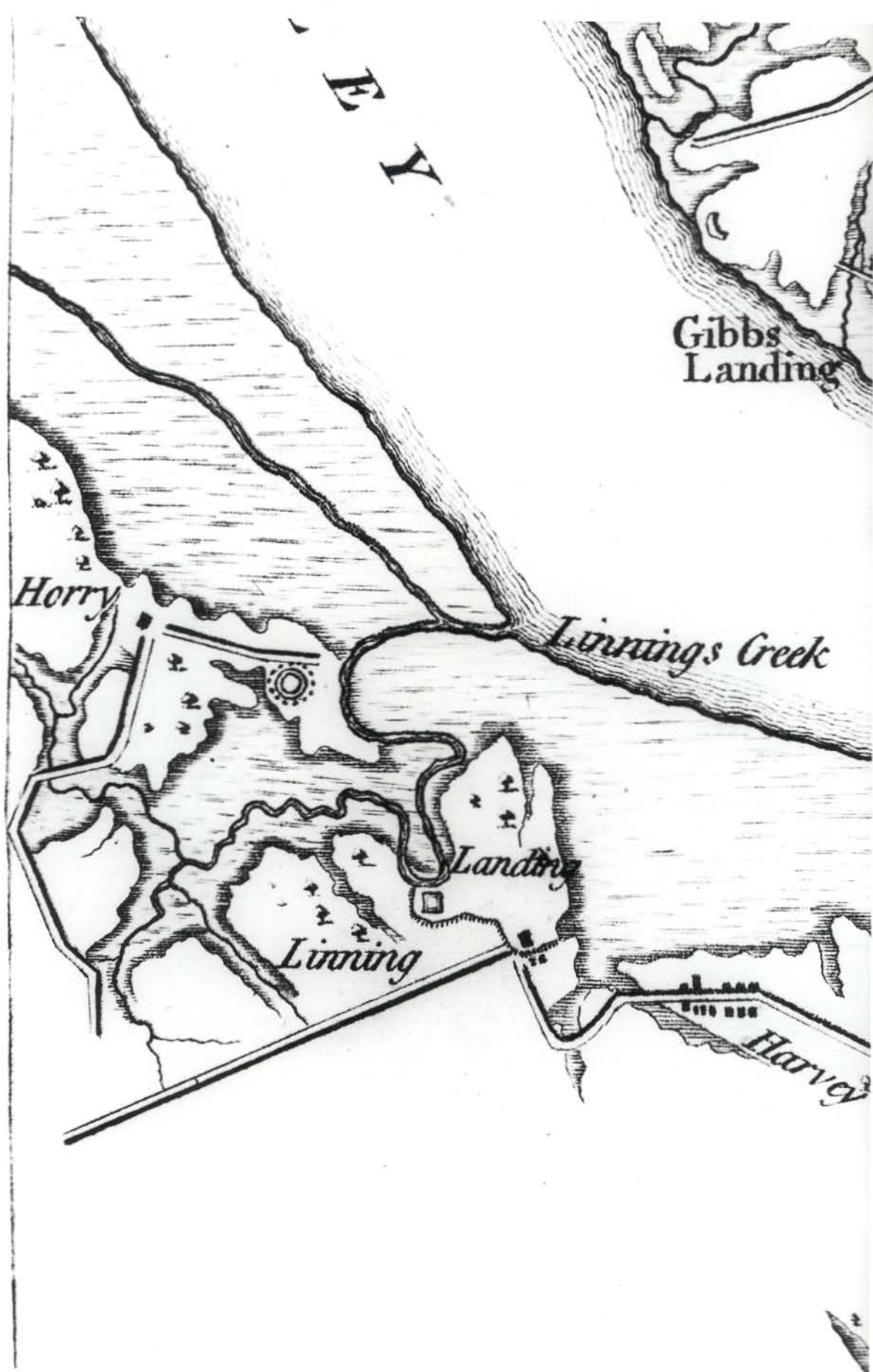
IN.
CM.

FIGURE 32

In 1787 Lieutenant-Colonel Bannister Tarlton published a book in which was shown a map of the siege of Charleston in 1780. This photograph is of a portion of that map showing the redoubt on Albemarle Point on the plantation of Elias Horry. The plantation house of Elias Horry is also shown, and if this map is accurate to 1780 and not only to 1787 when it was published, we can see that the house was standing at this time.

The significant point on this map is, however, the circular redoubt shown on Albemarle Point. Other redoubts of this type were also shown on the map, correlating with statements in Tarleton's book indicating that such redoubts were built on the south side of the Ashley River to give security for the British forces attacking Charleston (A History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781, in the Southern Province of North America, Lt. Col. Tarleton, London: 1787, Map "Plan of the Siege of Charlestown in South Carolina").

This map clearly reveals, along with the documents and artifacts from the redoubt itself, that the construction date for this feature was 1780.



THE EXPLANATORY EXHIBITS

FIGURE 33

The archeological crew working on rebuilding the parapet beside the 1670 Main Fortification Ditch on Albemarle Point. At the top can be seen the redoubt of 1780 after excavation.



FIGURE 34

A view of the rebuilt and stabilized fortification ditch and parapet of 1670 on the right, and the 1780 Redoubt on the left. In the background to the left the water of Old Town Creek can be seen, and beyond that the point of land on which Governor West built a plantation for the Lords Proprietor in 1671.

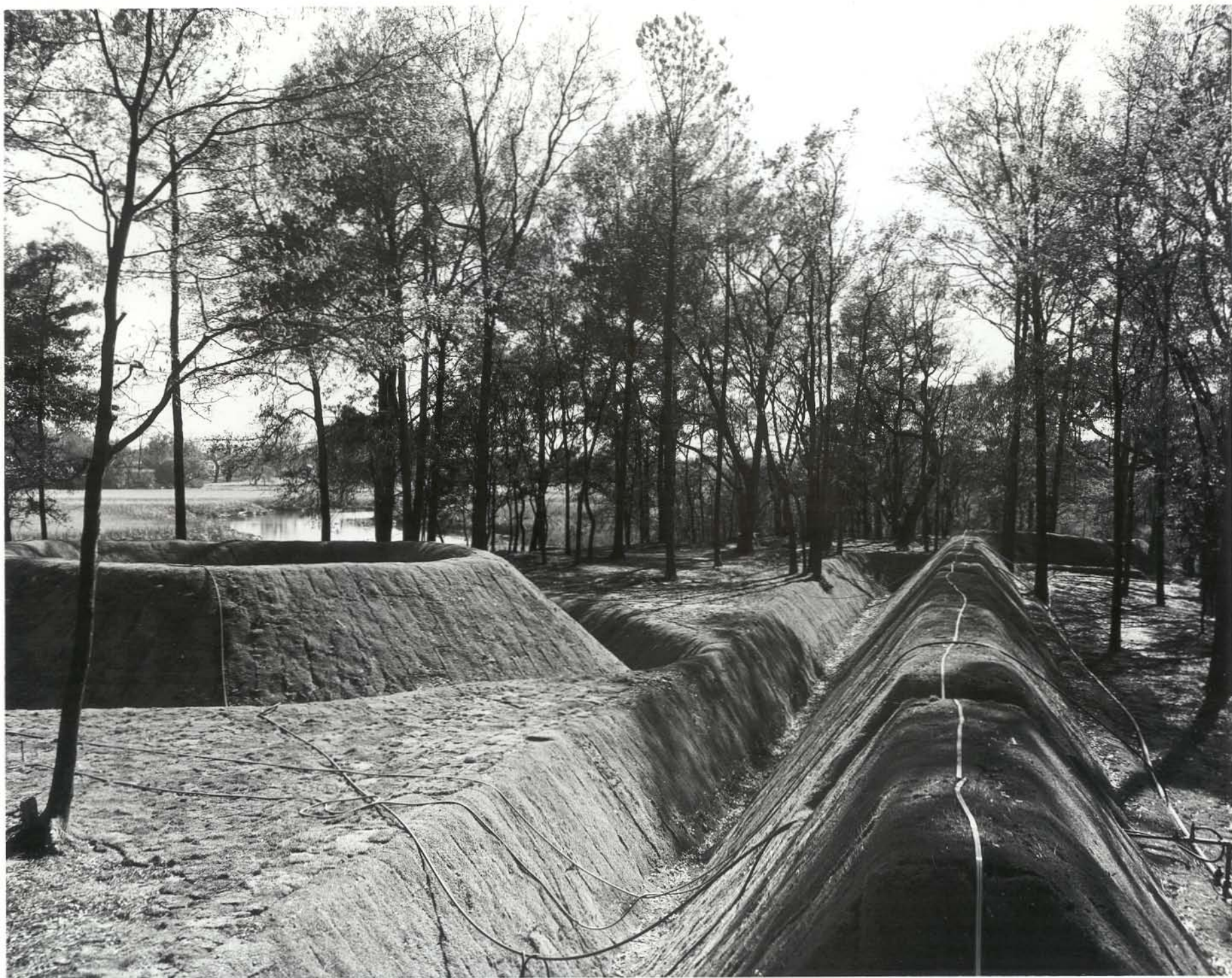


FIGURE 35

A view of the rebuilt and stabilized fort ditch and parapet at the entrance "V" of the 1670 Fort. In the background to the right can be seen the 1780 Redoubt.



FIGURE 36

The 1780 Redoubt with mound around the central bunker rebuilt and stabilized. In the background is the ketch built in the style of the seventeenth century, with visitors aboard.



FIGURE 37

Excavation of the east end of the main fortification ditch was not possible due to the need for an access road in this area which prevented archeology here. This east end of the ditch is the one place where the visitor to the site can still see the original depression for the main fort ditch and the accompanying embankment mound. In this photograph the depression of the ditch can be seen in the center, with the mound remaining from the parapet on the left with trees growing on it. The main line of the ditch had been plowed over for so many years that there was no sign of its impression except along the edge of the Ashley River Marsh at this point, where the plow had not touched.

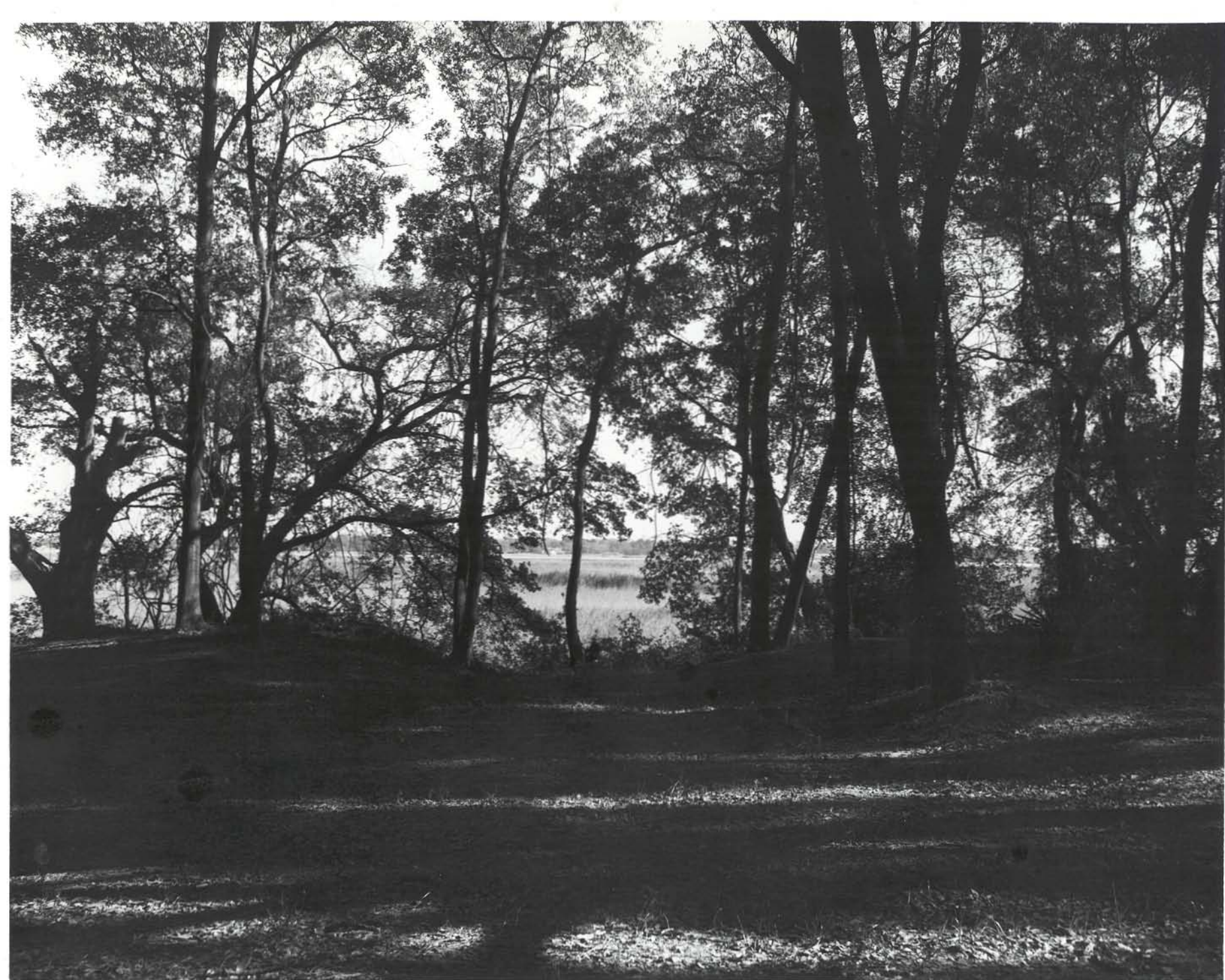


FIGURE 38

Palisade poles were placed in the original position of the palisade trench found along the land face fortification. Funds were not sufficient to allow the entire palisade to be rebuilt.



THE HORRY-LUCAS PLANTATION HOUSE RUIN

FIGURE 39

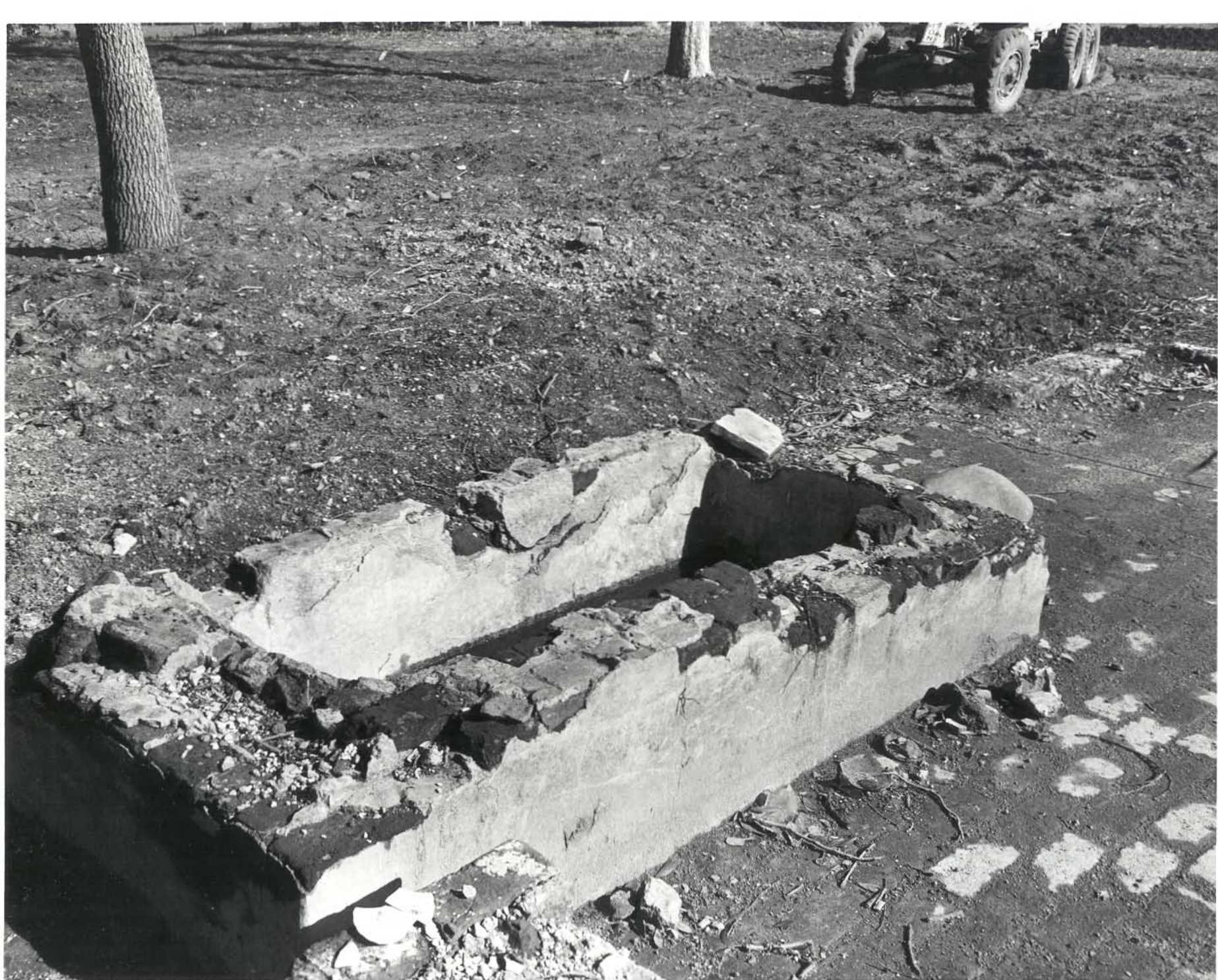
This is a view of the single trench opened on the west edge of the Horry-Lucas Plantation House Ruin. The foundation wall, the brick floor for the cellar, and footings for the porch on this side of the house can be seen in this view. Artifacts from this ruin reveal the house was probably built in the 1780's. However, Tarleton's Map of 1787 implies that the house was standing in 1780, which points to a 1770's period for the construction. Further archeological work is needed on the site in order to reveal more of its details and to arrive at a better archeological date for the construction of the house.



CHARLES TOWNE
CH 11
PHOTO 45
4 26 89

FIGURE 40

The brick bathtub found at the north corner of the cellar of the Horry-Lucas Plantation House Ruin. The brick floor in this area was uncovered by the landscaper in order to beautify the area, thus destroying much of the archeological data here. However, considerable information is yet to be revealed about this unexcavated ruin of the eighteenth century on Albemarle Point. Stabilization needs to be done to protect and preserve this unique feature of this ruin. At present, it is rapidly falling into total ruin through damage from the elements and through neglect.



THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY TAR KILN

FIGURE 41

During exploratory excavation in the area of the pavilion, a circular feature was discovered. This was a ditch similar to the redoubt ditch found on the tip of Albemarle Point, and at first this was thought to be another redoubt. However, as excavation proceeded, it was discovered that this was definitely an eighteenth century tar kiln.

In this view of the tar kiln excavation area, the crew is standing around the inside of the circular ditch from which dirt was taken by those operating the kiln to throw on top of the pine logs in order to provide a smothered burning condition necessary to extract the tars from the burning pine.

In the center can be seen the charcoal stained area with a ditch extending toward the lower left corner of the photograph. This ditch was designed to catch the pine tar as it ran onto the ground and into the ditch, and funnel it into a large basin (found in front of the man with the white shirt at the left edge of the picture).



THE EARLY INDIAN OCCUPATION

FIGURE 42

Spear points from around 4000 B. C. were recovered from Albemarle Point during the excavation of the 1670 Fortification features. One of the most interesting groups of early Indian artifacts, however, are the baked clay objects related to those found in stoneless areas from Texas, along the coasts and rivers of Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. These are thought to date from 2000 to 1000 B. C., and were used by the Indians, it is thought, as substitute cooking stones. The Charles Towne examples are unique in that most of them are oversized and have perforations, which such baked clay objects do not often have.

- Top:
- a. Perforated, grooved, melon-shaped form with flattened ends, diagonally impressed finger grooves (38CH1-154-23).
 - b. Typical cross-grooved form from Poverty Point Site, Louisiana, for comparison (Donated by Jerry Dukes, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina).
 - c. Imperforate, biscuit-shaped form (38CH1-230B-34).
- Center:
- d. Melon-shaped form with stick or reed perforation extending through the length of the object, as though designed to receive a shaft (38CH1-1K-23).
 - e. Deeply grooved, melon-shaped form with finger-made hole through the side (38CH1-204B-24).
- Bottom:
- f. Cog-shaped form related to the melon-shaped examples in form, but to the biscuit-shaped examples in thickness (38CH1-174B-24).
 - g. Melon-shaped form with diagonally impressed finger grooves and side perforation (38CH1-204B-60).

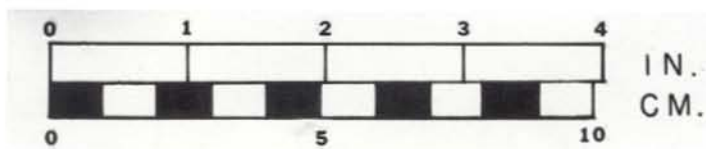


FIGURE 43

Fragments of the Perforated Grooved Melon-Shaped Form
From Charles Towne

- a. Top view of perforated, grooved, melon-shaped fragment (38CH1-154B2-1).
- b. Side view of perforated, grooved, melon-shaped fragment (38CH1-232B-24).
- c. Top view of melon-shaped fragment with finger perforation (38CH1-204B-61).
- d-i. Perforated, grooved, melon-shaped fragments (38CH1-34A-23; 38CH1-204B-55; 38CH1-154B7-24; 38CH1-204B-56; 38CH1-204B-50; 38CH1-204B-59).

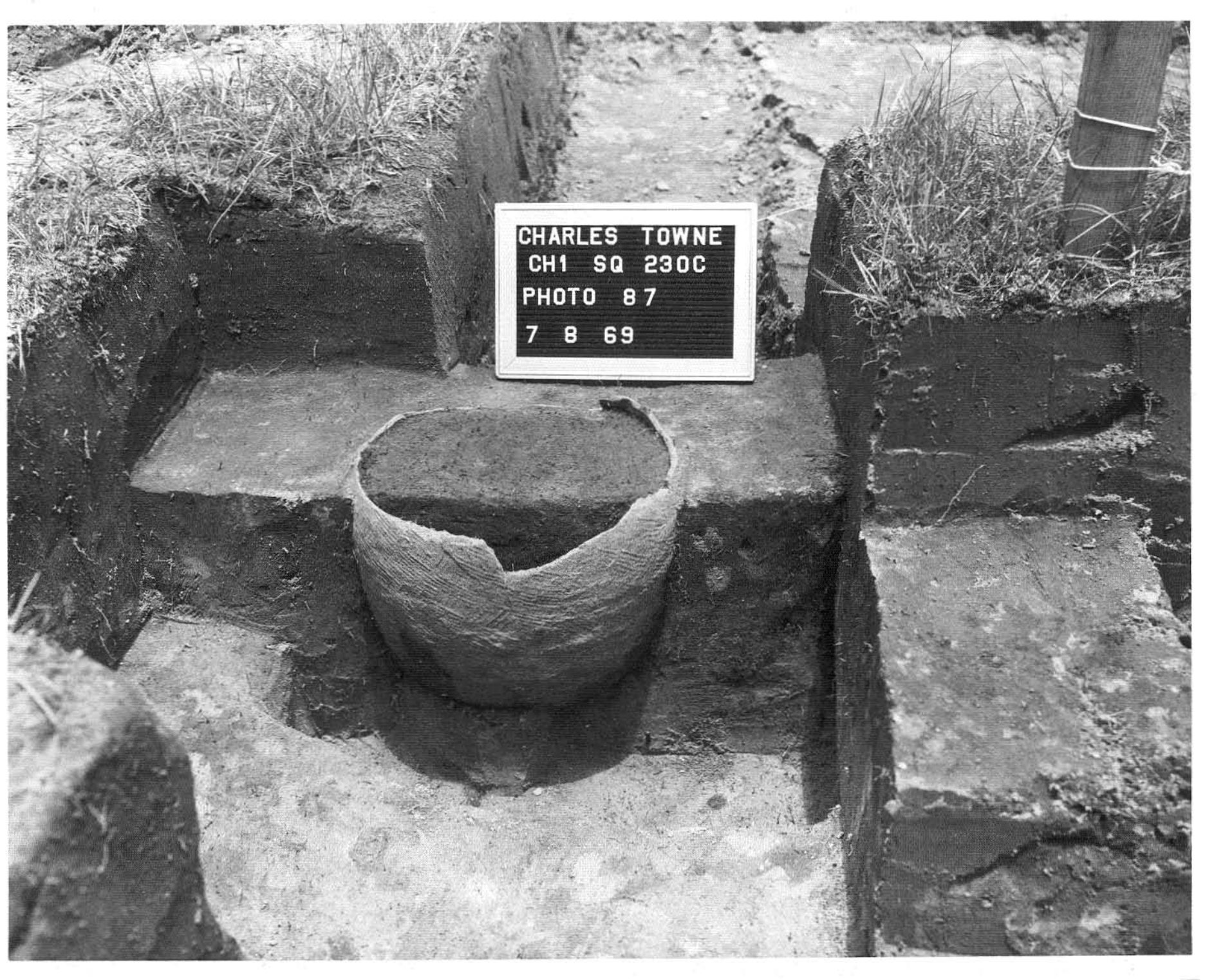


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THE INDIAN CEREMONIAL CENTER

FIGURE 44

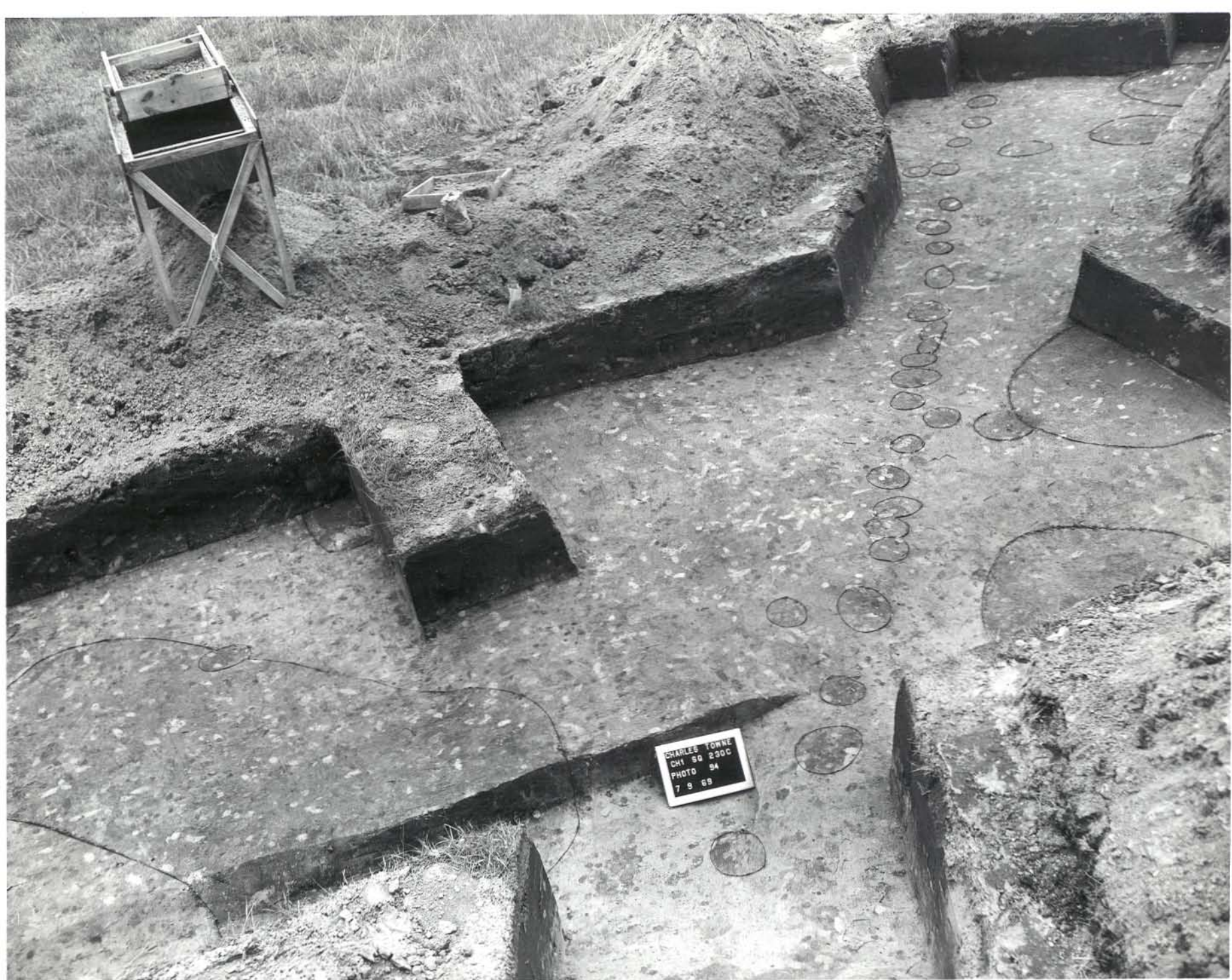
An Indian pot, with the rim removed by plowing, found during the exploratory phase of the excavation at the pavilion site where an Indian ceremonial center was discovered. This pot is unique in that it has a rectilinear, carved paddle, stamped motif on the upper half, but the bottom is stamped with a concentric circle motif.



CHARLES TOWNE
CH1 SQ 230C
PHOTO 87
7 8 69

FIGURE 45

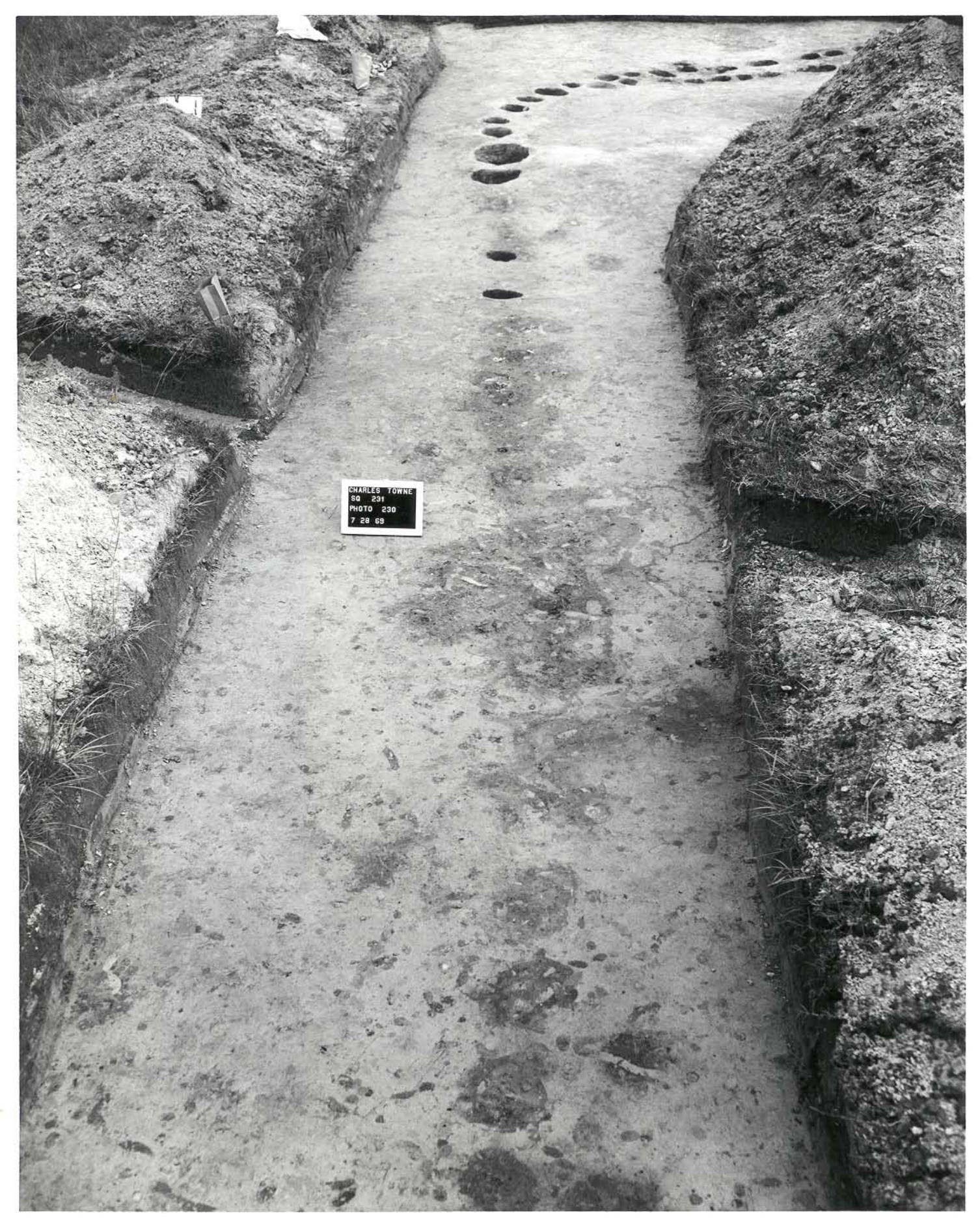
A view of exploratory trenches opened during the first phase of the excavation at the pavilion site. The row of postholes seen here are those from the west wall of the ceremonial temple. The burial pit at the lower left is Flexed Burial 230K, and the two burials seen to the right are 230K4, and 239, these latter two being inside the temple building itself.



CHARLES TOWNE
CH 50 230C
PHOTO 94
7 9 69

FIGURE 46

A view of one of the original exploratory trenches cut on the site of the Indian Ceremonial Center to reveal the west palisade wall line of the large compound. The postholes in the foreground have not been excavated, but those at the north corner of the compound have had their contents removed. At this point the three palisades found to have been around the area at different times were placed in virtually the same position, so that the three palisade walls overlap and are not easily distinguishable one from the other.



CHARLES TOWNE
SQ 231
PHOTO 230
7 29 69

FIGURE 47

Part of the crew excavating postholes at the east corner of the Ceremonial Center Compound. The three lines of the palisade walls can easily be seen here, where each succeeding wall was placed further out than the one before. These postholes formed a compound 200 feet square, with a ceremonial temple in the center. This temple was later replaced by square-ground sheds. Ceremonies were held inside the compound, such as the burial of the dead and various other rituals.



FIGURE 48

The outline of the two palisades at the north corner of the smaller compound attached to the larger ceremonial area. The palisade at the left of the picture was the earliest, with that represented by the ditch on the right, being the last built on the site. Of particular interest in regard to this last palisade is the fact that in this ditch was found a sherd of Qualla pottery, a type made by the Cherokee Indians in East Tennessee in the seventeenth, well into the nineteenth century.



CHURCH TOWN
NO. 011
PHOTO 278
D. W. 68

FIGURE 49

The post hole pattern representing one of the square-ground type sheds inside the ceremonial center. The rectangle of the shed posts could be seen because they contained red clay in the fill, probably from the wattle-and-daub walls with which such sheds are known to have been covered. Compare this photograph with that in Figure 50 to pick out the posts containing the red clay.



FIGURE 50

Paper plates have been placed over the postholes containing red clay, and in so doing the rectangular outline of the square-ground shed can be seen. Compare this with Figure 49. In the background, the crew is cleaning another area for plotting and photography. The areas such as this had to be cleaned repeatedly to produce a surface clean enough to reveal the post hole patterns.

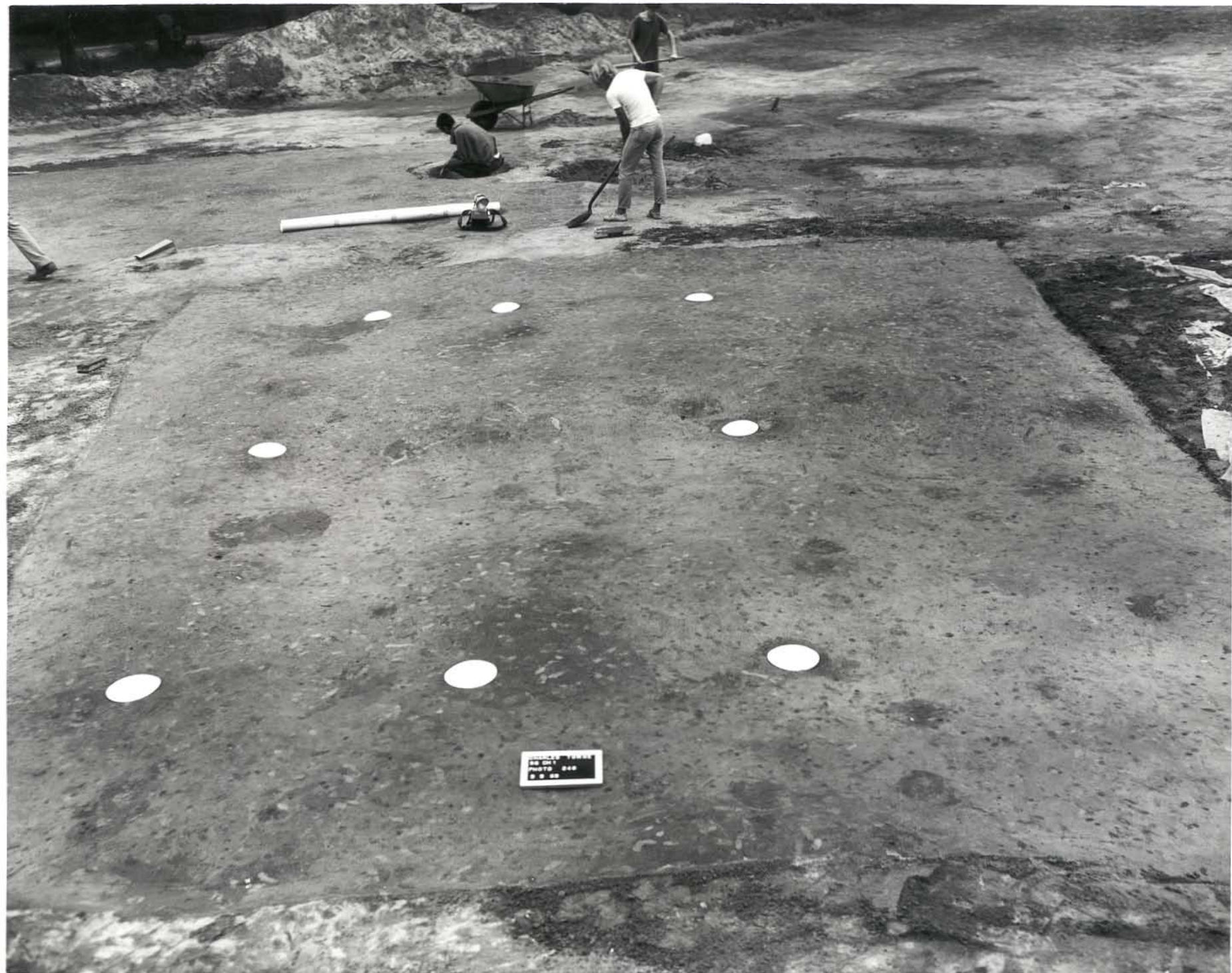



FIGURE 51

Burial 230K4, which is typical of the flexed position of the burials placed inside the ceremonial compound by the Indians who used the area as a sacred center.



CHARLES TOWNE
SQ CH1 230K4
PHOTO 211
7 17 69

FIGURE 52

A typical group of flexed burials at the Ceremonial Center. On the left is Burial 264, at the top is Burial 267, at the bottom is Burial 266, and to the right is Burial 268.



FIGURE 53

Burial 255, containing at least four bundle burials and a cremation containing remains of adults and children. The polished chunky stone is of the type used by a large number of American Indians to play the game of chunky. A radiocarbon date is being obtained from the cremation found with the skull on the left marked "D", that should provide a date for this burial, and for the use of the Ceremonial Center, which is thought to have been between 1450 and 1650 A. D.



CHARLES TOWNE
SQ CH 1 255
PHOTO 251
9 9 69

FIGURE 54

The chunky stone found with Burial 255 (38CH1-255B-23). This stone is polished, and is convex on one side and flat on the other. Such stones have been described by Henry Timberlake among the Cherokee, and represent a widely popular game among many Indian groups.



0 cm



FIGURE 55

A view of Burial 239 during excavation. At the top can be seen the rim of the burial pot found to contain the bones of a small infant, perhaps an embryo. The tightly bundled burial, possibly the mother of the child, is seen in the center of the picture with the skull to the right. The lower arrow points out a shell bead found with the bundle, and the four arrows at top point to four of seven quartz pebbles found together at this location, probably representing a gourd rattle placed with the burial.

CHARLES TOWNE
SQ CH1 239
PHOTO 236
8 9 69



FIGURE 56

The smooth pot from Burial 239 in which the bones of the embryo or infant child was found (See Figure 54).



FIGURE 57

View of the urn in Feature 252 during the process of excavation. This urn was upside-down over a bowl containing a water jar or bottle (See Figure 58).

A black and white photograph of a human skull, likely a cranium, resting in a shallow, circular excavation in the ground. The skull is dark, possibly due to soil or age, and shows significant cracking and fragmentation. The surrounding soil is light-colored and appears to be a mix of sand and silt. A small, light-colored object, possibly a piece of wood or bone, lies on the ground to the left of the skull. In the foreground, a white rectangular label with black text is placed on the ground.

CHARLES TOWNE
SQ CH1 252
PHOTO 245
8 28 69

FIGURE 58

A smooth water jar (38CH1-252-24) inside a complicated stamped bowl (38CH1-252-25) found beneath the large complicated stamped urn (38CH1-252-1) in Feature 252. The jar contained some humus material that was examined closely to determine what it had contained, but nothing definitive could be discovered. It is suspected that it may have held the leaves of the yaupon plant, which were used to make the "Black Drink" used in the ceremonies of so many Southeastern Indians.

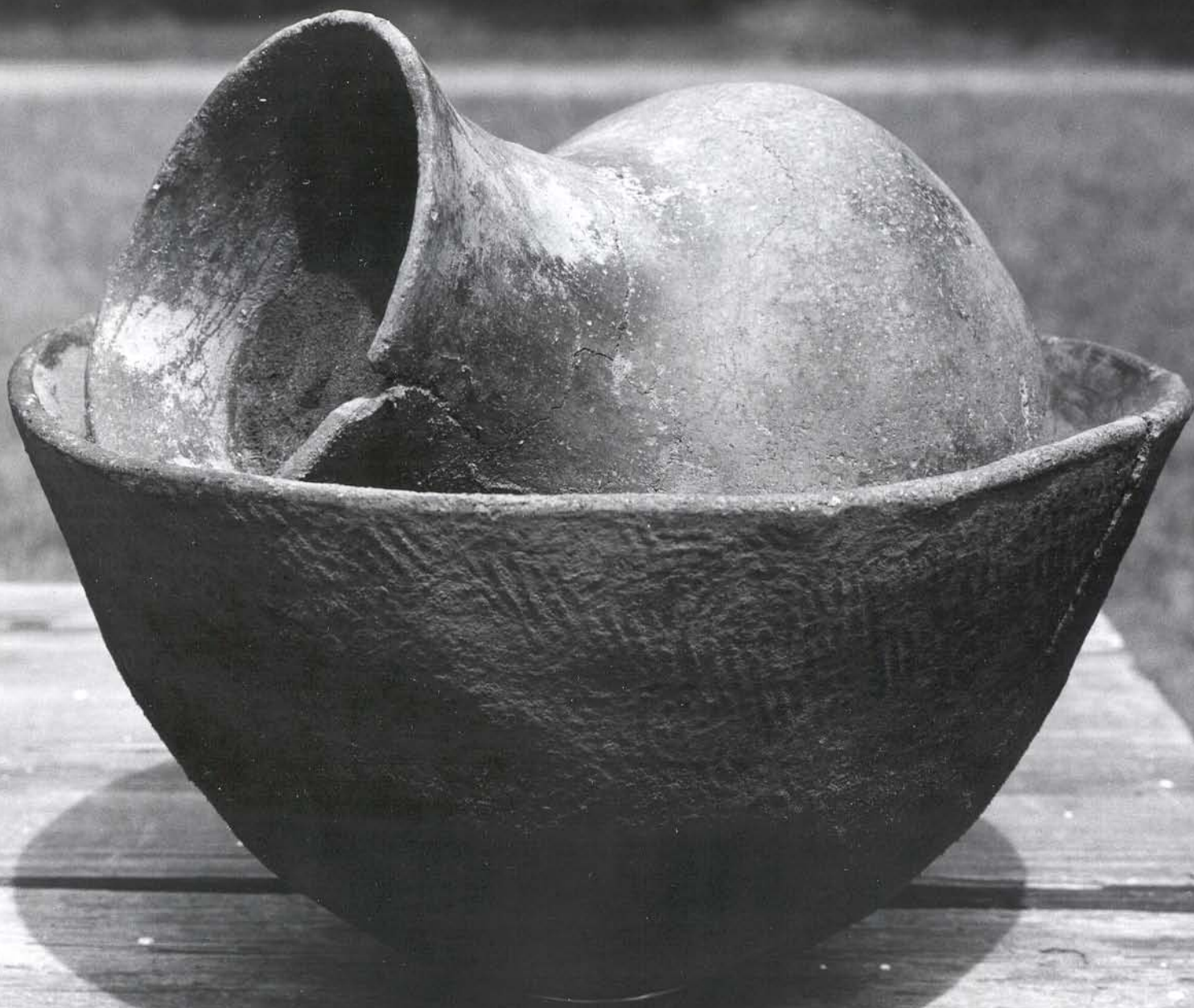


FIGURE 59

The large urn used to cover the bowl and jar in Feature 252 inside the ceremonial center. The punctations and rosettes are typical of pottery of the Savannah-Irene and Pee Dee cultures. The straight-sided form, however, is more typical of the Savannah-Pee Dee period than the Irene.



FIGURE 60

An incised bowl from Feature 233 inside the northeast wall of the palisaded ceremonial center. The incising is typical of that known as Irene Incised, but the form of the bowl, with the inward angled rather than inward curved form, the ticking or incising marks on the angle, are Savannah characteristics, making this vessel something of a hybrid form between Savannah-Pee Dee and the Irene-Lamar periods. Comparatively little of this type was found in the Ceremonial Center.



FIGURE 61

During the excavation of the Ceremonial Center, a number of burned corncob filled pits were found. These are frequently associated with ceremonial center sites such as Town Creek Indian Mound in North Carolina, and elsewhere. These cobs have been burned under oxygen-reduced conditions that would have produced heavy smoke. It is thought that they were used to coat the interior of pottery vessels with a smudge coating, and references indicate that this was a practice observed among some Indian groups in the Southeast. It has also been suggested that they may have served as smudge pits for helping to drive away mosquitoes.

The pit full of corncobs seen in this photograph has been sectioned for study when this picture was made. Though typical of those found in the Ceremonial Center, this pit was found inside the area of the 1670 North Fortification Ditch of the original settlement site. It is probably Indian in origin. With the idea of using the pit as an exhibit piece in a museum display, it was coated with polyurethane resin, and the entire matrix around the pit was excavated, and the entire pit removed as a unit. Figure 62 shows the pit after it was removed from the field (38CH1-61C).

CH 1 61 C



FIGURE 62

Pit 61C in the laboratory after being lifted intact from the ground and transported to the laboratory. Notice that the corncobs are lying in a position that normally would cause them to spill from the pit, but it has been so stabilized with the polyurethane resin that they can be stored in this vertical position without fear of damage.

During the excavation of the land face fortification ditch at Charles Towne, a similar technique was used to lift profiles so that they could be studied in detail in the laboratory.

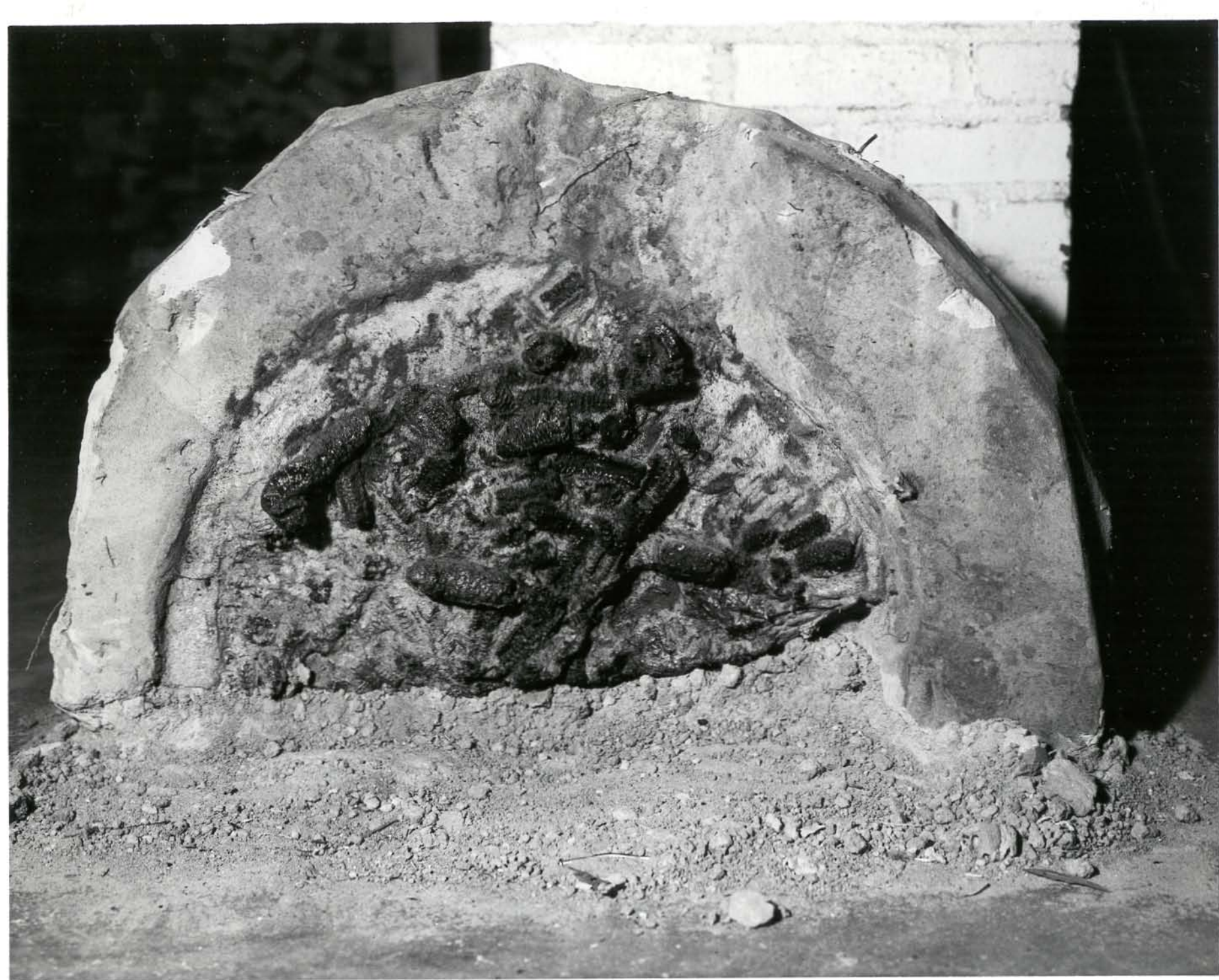


FIGURE 63

Feature 235 in the foreground, and Feature 237 in the background as seen in plain view after cleaning of the plowed soil zone from over the area. These features were located to the northeast of the Ceremonial Center area, and are significant in that the pottery recovered from these pits is different from that found in the area of the Ceremonial Center. The pottery found here is characterized by a more careless technique, larger complicated stamps were used on the surface, and corncob impressed pottery, as well as a new simple stamped type were recovered. The new type named as a result of having been found in a good association with other types in this pit is Ashley Simple Stamped, and is thought to be transitional from the Savannah-Pee Dee style to the Irene-Lamar style.

Besides the pottery, which was of primary interest, bone tools, oyster shells, burned nuts, and animal bone were recovered from these features.

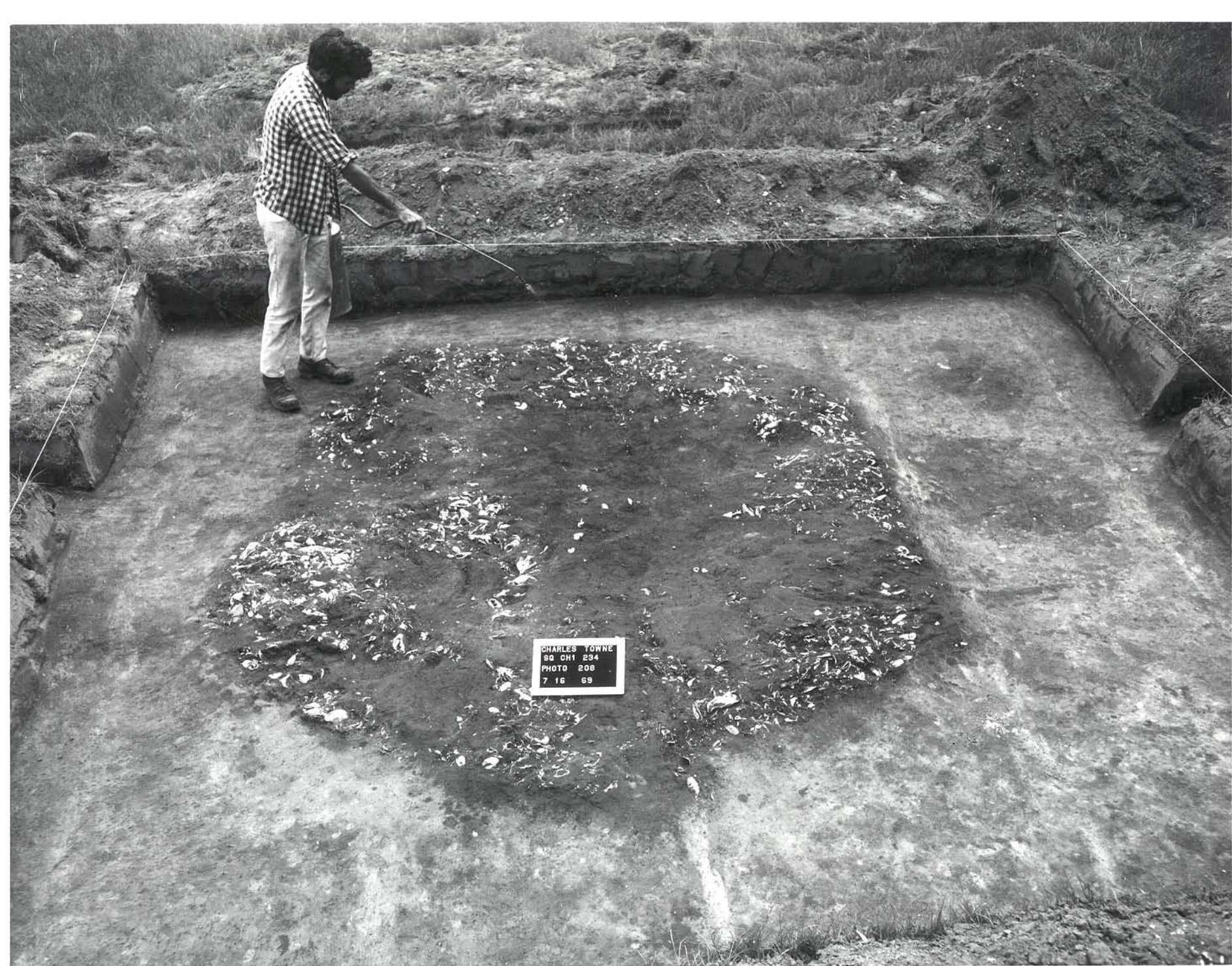
The burned nuts from this feature (237) have been sent for radiocarbon analysis, and should reveal a date somewhat later than the dates for the Ceremonial Center, perhaps around A. D. 1600 or later.



CHARLES TOWNE
SQ CHI 235
PHOTO 209
7 16 69

FIGURE 64

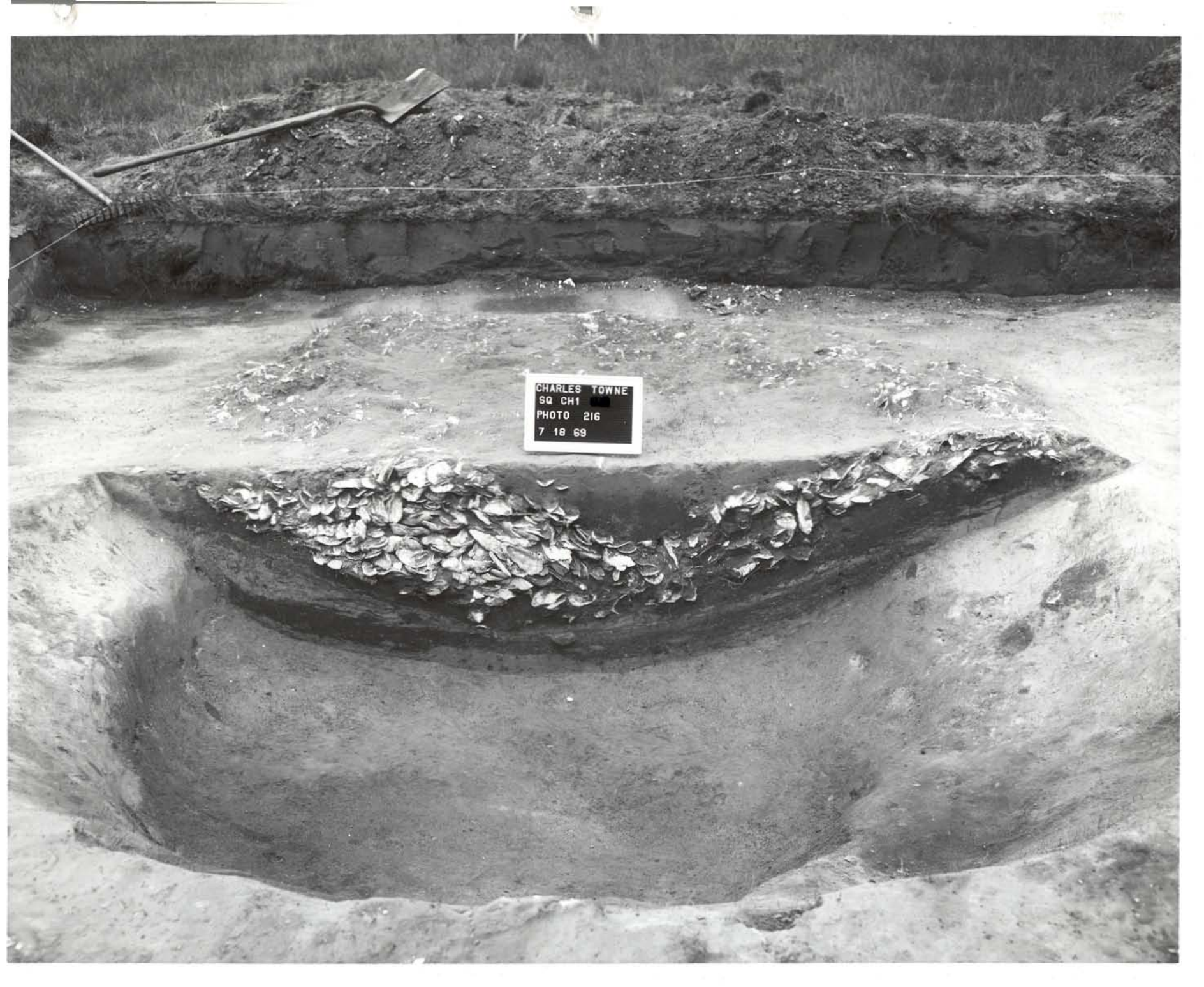
Feature 234 was a large midden-filled pit located 40 feet from Feature 237, a little closer to the Ceremonial Center. This feature was thickly filled with an oyster shell deposit, as well as bone, and pottery similar to that in Feature 237, but not so much like that from the Ceremonial Center. Figure 65 illustrates a profile of this feature during excavation.



CHARLES TOWNE
SQ CH1 294
PHOTO 208
7 16 69

FIGURE 65

Profile of Feature 234 during excavation showing the deposit of oyster shells from Indian meals thrown into the pit. The smooth fill soil above the oysters represents a later intrusion into the pit.



A black and white photograph of an archaeological excavation. In the foreground, a large, roughly rectangular pit is dug into the ground. The pit is filled with a thick layer of oyster shells, which appear to be arranged in a somewhat regular pattern. The shells are light-colored and have a distinct, rounded shape. The pit is surrounded by a layer of dark, moist soil. In the background, a raised earthen bank is visible, with a shovel and a rake leaning against it. A thin wire or string is stretched across the scene, likely for scale or to mark the excavation area. A small, white rectangular label with black text is placed in the center of the pit, providing information about the site and the photograph.

CHARLES TOWNE
SQ CH1
PHOTO 216
7 18 69

FIGURE 66

Two large rim sherds are illustrated here that are typical of those from Feature 237. The sharply everted rim is typical of sherds from the transition period between Savannah and Irene periods. The sloppily punctated rim strips are not like those neatly hollow-reed punctated decorations seen on the pottery from the Ceremonial Center. The stamps are more bold and have wider lands and grooves than those from the Ceremonial Center, with the cross motif being one of those seen on complicated stamped Savannah sherds. These were associated with the Ashley Simple Stamped type in Feature 237.

Left: 38CH1-237A-1A

Right: 38CH1-237C-1



FIGURE 67

A corncob impressed pot (38CH1-237A-1) with smearing over the impressions. The form is that seen on Savannah Burnished Plain vessels. It is interesting that only a few sherds of this type were found on the Ceremonial Center Site.

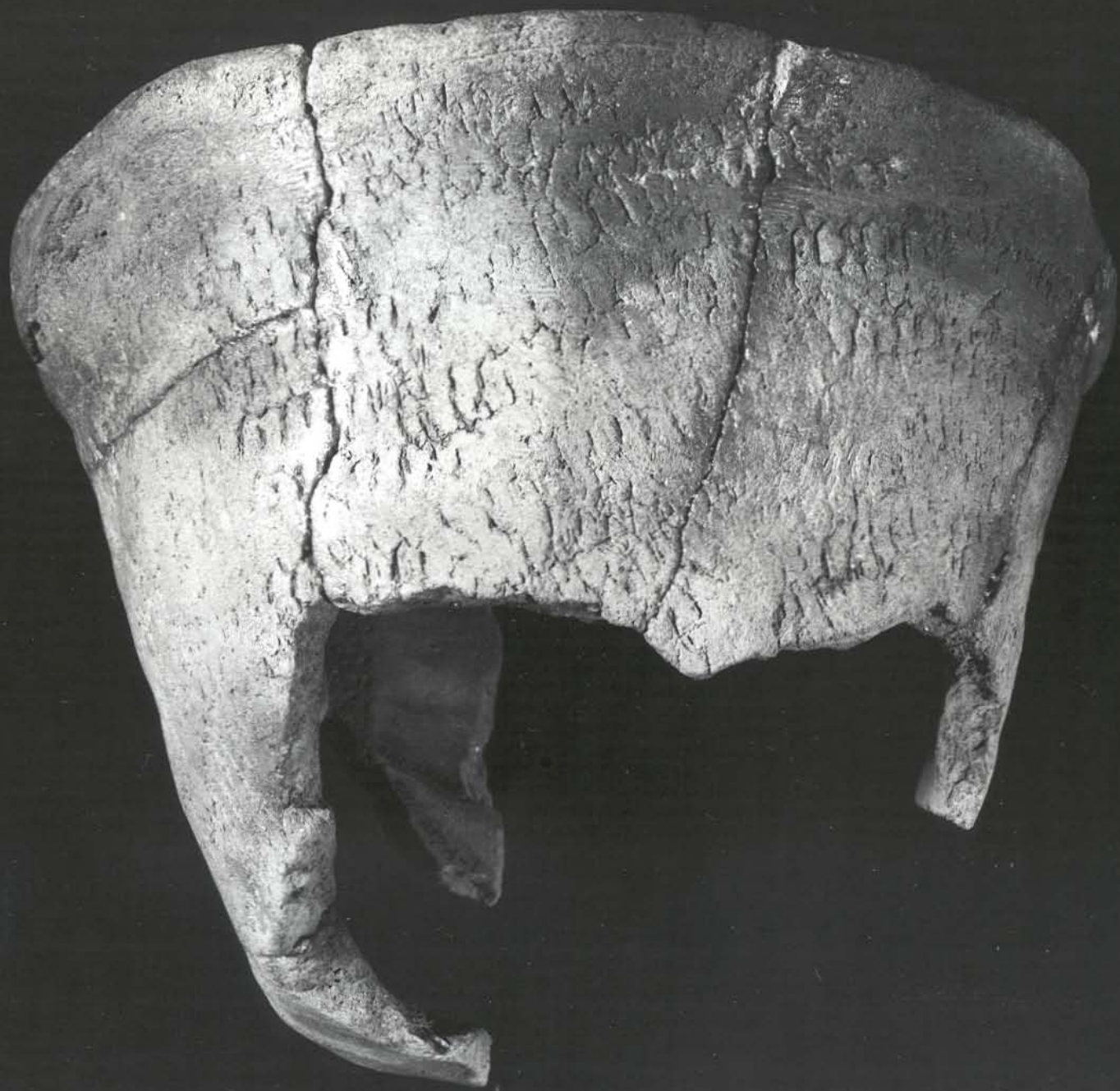


FIGURE 68

Large rim sherd (38CH1-237A-1B) of Ashley Simple Stamped type pottery from the pit, Feature 237. This is a sand-tempered ware with a bold simple stamped surface applied so as to appear to have continuous lines extending around the body of the vessel at a slight angle to horizontal. The rim is sharply everted and has a row of fingernail punctations or split reed punctations around the lip. This type is thought to be from the transitional period from Savannah-Pee Dee to Irene-Lamar, a period when less care was taken with added rim strips and specialized rim treatment than was the case at an earlier time, characterized by the pottery from the Ceremonial Center.



FIGURE 69

An aerial view of the Ceremonial Center Area showing the lake created by damming a marsh in recent years. The edge of the Ashley River marsh can be seen in the upper left of the picture, and in the upper right, the Waring House. In the lower left, above the road in the edge of the trees, can be seen the excavated area for Feature 235 and 237 on the left, and 234 on the right.



FIGURE 70

Aerial photograph of the posthole outline of the entire ceremonial area as revealed through excavation. In the center of the Ceremonial Center can be seen the post-holes of the rectangular square-ground type sheds, as well as the open burial pits. The smaller compound area attached to the north corner can also be seen through the excavated post hole pattern. The outer palisade ditch outline, not excavated, can also be seen in this photograph. At the west corner of the smaller compound can be seen the circular post hole pattern of the corner bastion. The square pattern to the left of the automobiles is a pile of construction materials for building the Tricentennial Commission's Pavilion on top of the Ceremonial Center.



FIGURE 71

A final view of the unique bastion at the west corner of the smaller ceremonial compound taken just moments before the bulldozer in the background cut into the bastion to begin its total destruction of the Indian Ceremonial Compound.



FIGURE 72

A last view of the Ceremonial Compound posthole pattern as machines in the background begin construction of the Tricentennial Pavilion on the Indian Ceremonial Center Site.



FIGURE 73

A view of a ceremonial center at Town Creek Indian Mound State Historic Site at Mt. Gilead, North Carolina. The ceremonial temple in the left foreground was built on the temple mound in the exact position as the original revealed through postholes found by the archeologists. The palisade and tower in the background have been replaced in the same position as the posthole pattern uncovered through archeology dictated. In the plaza area can be seen a circular burial house or mortuary building into which the visitor can look and see the Indian burials left open, in the exact position as revealed by the archeologist, and as left by the Indians who performed the burial ceremony for these dead some 500 years ago. Other burial houses with similar burials are located on the site and may also be revealed in the years to come when the burial houses once standing over them are also reconstructed. Thousands of visitors each year come to this ceremonial center in North Carolina to view this unique attraction, anchored in the past through the roots of archeological research.

This is an example of the potential a ceremonial center such as that destroyed at Charles Towne can have for the education and enjoyment of the visiting public. The Charles Towne Center was similar in some ways with this one illustrated here, but it was entirely unique in that it had a square compound to which a smaller compound was attached, and at the west corner of this was a corner bastion unlike any other ever discovered in the Southeast. The fact that the site represented a moundless ceremonial center is quite unique also, and may be the first of a number that will eventually be found. If the posts had been replaced in the holes of this compound, the exhibit would have been one of the most outstanding ever interpreted, taking its place along with Town Creek and Ocmulgee National Monument among the major Indian sites in the country.

(Photograph from color postcard "Town Creek Indian Mound State Historic Site, Mt. Gilead, North Carolina." Restored Burial House in the Ceremonial Center [1450-1550 A. D.] The site, with museum, is operated by the State Department of Archives and History.) Published by W. D. Hood, Jr. & Associates, Raleigh, North Carolina.

